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Japan Welcomes Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime

OW0304142092 Tokyo KYODO in English 1402 GMT 3 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 3 KYODO—A group of 27 countries has agreed to establish a nuclear nonproliferation regime to regulate exports of goods and equipment that can be used to develop nuclear arms, Japanese Government officials said Friday.

The agreement was reached earlier Friday at the end of a four-day meeting in Warsaw of the 27 parties to the London Guideline, the so-called "Nuclear Suppliers' Group," said the officials at the Foreign and Trade Ministries.

The new regime will tighten export restrictions on thousands of items in 65 categories of advanced technologies and products, including lasers, carbon fibers, oscilloscopes, and numerically controlled machine tools that can be used in the production of enriched uranium and plutonium.

It will be is the largest international regulatory framework for the export of dual-use items having both military and nonmilitary applications, they said.

It is also the first accord regulating the transfer of items not specifically intended for nuclear weapons but which could be used in the making of them.

The officials said the initial membership of the new regime, which has been worked out over the past year in four working-group meetings, will be the same as the 27 parties to the London Guideline.

They are Japan, the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany, Canada, Italy, Australia, the Netherlands, Belgium, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Finland, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Luxembourg, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and Austria.

The London Guideline, set up in 1978 in the wake of India's explosion of a nuclear device, regulates exports by its members of materials, equipment, and technology specifically intended for nuclear purposes, such as nuclear reactors and nuclear materials.

Japan welcomes the establishment of the new nonproliferation regime and its selection as the de facto secretariat of the accord, formally called the Export Regime for Nuclear-Related Dual-Use Items, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The meeting's unanimous selection of a Japanese diplomatic post to serve as "contact point" for the regime "justly recognizes the responsible role Japan has been playing in maintaining the nuclear nonproliferation regime, Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said in a statement.

Officials said Japan's permanent mission to international organizations in Vienna will serve as the headquarters for the new regime. Japan will assume all operational and personnel costs, they said.

The regime is envisaged to take over many of the functions of the Paris-based Coordinating Committee (Cocom), a 17-nation watchdog body established in 1948 to monitor sensitive exports to communist nations.

Cocom is becoming obsolete with the end of the cold war. Its restrictions have not been applied to nations such as Iraq, which until the end of the Persian Gulf war had been making steady progress toward a nuclear weapons capability.

Japan, in campaigning to be the regime's contact point, stressed its strict policy principles of neither possessing nor manufacturing nuclear weapons and its active international role in promoting nuclear nonproliferation, the officials said.

Japan also quietly pointed out its status as the only country ever to have been bombed by atomic weapons, they said.

Japan

Reportage on PRC's Jiang Zemin Visit Continues

Miyazawa on Importance of Ties

OW0704124192 Tokyo KYODO in English 1226 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—Prime Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said Tuesday that the relationship between Japan and China is one of Japan's most important bilateral ties.

Comparing the importance of the relationship to Japan-U.S. ties, Miyazawa said, "the relations between Japan and China have been developing politically, economically, socially, and culturally in 20 years since the normalization of the bilateral ties."

"Today, neither country cannot do without the other," Miyazawa said in an address before visiting Chinese Communist Party chief Jiang Zemin.

"Japan and China have been advancing dramatically to become globally influential powers. It is indispensable for the two countries to maintain friendly and cooperative relations for the peace and stability not only in Asia but in the world as well," Miyazawa said.

Japanese-Chinese relations "are one of Japan's most important bilateral relations, together with the ties with the United States," he said.

Jiang, general secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, arrived in Tokyo Monday on a five-day official visit.

Earlier Tuesday he visited former Prime Minister Kakuei Tanaka who restored diplomatic relations with China in 1972.

Jiang is the first top foreign dignitary to visit Tanaka since the former premier collapsed due to cerebral infarction in February 1985, according to his son-in-law and former House of Representatives member Naoki Tanaka.

At a memorial celebration marking the 20th anniversary of the normalization of Japan-China relations, Miyazawa said it is important for the two nations to beef up bilateral ties in the future in order to surmount rather than recoil from difficulties.

Citing a passage from the *Analects* of Confucius, Miyazawa said he thinks the primary task assigned by the future is to continue efforts to deepen mutual understanding and mutual trust.

He also said he was touched by Jiang's interest in Japan, in addition to his outstanding insight and friendly personality, when he met with the Chinese Communist Party chief during his 1990 visit to China.

Miyazawa said Japan will do its utmost to extend assistance to accelerate China's economic reform and open-door policy, as well as devote itself to building "Japanese-Sino relations that will contribute to the world."

The National People's Congress of China during one of its recent sessions committed to pushing the reform policies which were initiated by patriarch Deng Xiaoping.

Jiang Thanks People for Welcome

OW0704135192 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1200 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Interview with Jiang Zemin by newscaster Tadashi Sonoda in Tokyo on 7 April—video recorded; Jiang, Sonoda speak in Mandarin; following translated from the Mandarin]

[Text] [Sonoda] We know that your schedule is very tight and that your time is very precious. However, since you are visiting NHK, I would like to ask you to say a few words on my program to the Japanese people. Will you please?

[Jiang] Yes, I can.

[Sonoda] Thank you.

[Jiang] Many thanks to the Japanese people for their enthusiastic welcome to my visit. I would like to take this opportunity to extend my warm regards to the Japanese people. Also, I also want to wish Japan prosperity and the Japanese people a happy family life. Thanks.

[Sonoda] Thank you. What do you do during your spare time in your busy official life?

[Jiang] I think that I have very little spare time. If I have the time, I like to read literature.

[Sonoda] Finally, may we ask you to write down the well-known saying of which you are fond? Here is the brush.

[Jiang] Let's not hurry. [video shows Jiang laughing and then taking a brush to write two verses on a piece of paper]

[Sonoda] People say you like Chinese classics. I think this one is a poem from the Tang Dynasty.

[Jiang] This is a classic. It is a poem written during the Tang Dynasty.

[Sonoda] Would you please explain it?

[Jiang] Very well. The two verses I have just written on the paper read: If you wish to have an unobstructed, breathtaking view of a thousand li, you must ascend one more flight of stairs. The preceding two verses read: The setting sun disappears over the mountains, and the Huanghe flows into the ocean.

Jiang Zemin Holds News Conference

OW0804113192 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 0600 GMT 8 Apr 92

[News conference by Jiang Zemin, general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, at the Japan National Press Club in Tokyo on 8 April; Japanese reporters speak in Japanese, Chinese reporters in Mandarin, and Jiang in Mandarin with translators providing passage-by-passage translations in Japanese and Mandarin; Chinese reporters' and Jiang's statements translated from the Mandarin—live]

[Text] [Jiang Zemin] Today is the third day of my visit to your country. I am very pleased I have this opportunity to meet with you.

During the past three days, I have met with His Majesty the Emperor and held talks with Prime Minister Miyazawa. I also have had extensive contacts with the leaders of various political parties, as well as old and new friends from both the government and private sector. It is my impression that we had very good conversations during the meetings and discussions. Both sides unanimously agreed that they should maintain the good trend of high-level contacts to jointly advance the continued development of Sino-Japanese friendship and cooperation. Besides, it was also unanimously agreed that under the new situation in which the international order is becoming multipolar, our two countries should strengthen consultation and cooperation on international issues. I am satisfied with the trip. I would like to take this opportunity to express my profound thanks to the Japanese Government and the Japanese people for their considerate treatment and warm reception.

[ASAHI SHIMBUN reporter Kato] I am Kato of ASAHI SHIMBUN. I would like to ask you two questions in relation to domestic politics. First, at the recent party Central Committee session and National People's Congress session, the policy to push reform and openness was confirmed. If daring economic reform is to be pushed, I think, eventually, the modernization of the political system will also be necessary. Will you tell us in this regard—specifically, concerning political reform—as to when and how you intend to begin it?

Second, Mr. Deng Xiaoping's tour of the southern region in January and February was seen as a confirmation of the policy to push reform and openness. What prompted Mr. Deng Xiaoping, who is very old, to decide to come to the forefront of politics? I would appreciate it very much if you, the party general secretary, could tell me about the intentions and background behind this.

[Jiang] I think I would like to reverse the order of the two questions asked by this gentleman. Let me answer your second question first. I think the main intention of the important speeches made by Comrade Deng Xiaoping during his recent trip to the south—a trip made during the Spring Festival—is upholding our party's line of one center and two basic points, speeding up the pace of reform and opening to the outside world, and, at the same time, concentrating our energy on advancing our economic construction. This has been Comrade Deng Xiaoping's consistent idea. Of course, we should be aware that, currently, our country's socialist modernization construction is at a critical stage. After more than 10 years of reform and opening to the outside world, our country's national economy has made great headway. The present international environment is conducive to advancing our modernization drive, as well as conducive to advancing reform and opening to the outside world. We must seize this opportunity to speed up economic development.

I think Comrade Deng Xiaoping is the chief designer of our country's reform and opening to the outside world and the leader of the older generation. Therefore, he raised this idea out of his concern for our country's construction. The entire party and people of the whole country feel very happy about his.

In your first question you stressed our country's reform. Of course, your emphasis concerned our political reform, but I think I should first tell you about the conditions of our economic reform, because the emphasis on deepening our current economic reform is transforming the operating mechanisms of enterprises, particularly state-run enterprises. At the same time, corresponding efforts will be made to advance price reform, reform of the commodity circulation system, housing reform, and reform of the social insurance system. While continuing to operate Shenzhen well, along with other special economic zones, we will make special efforts to successfully develop the New Pudong District in Shanghai and to open it to the outside world in order to stimulate the development of the Chang Jiang Delta and the Chang Jiang Basin.

I think the objective of our political reform remains the building of socialism with Chinese characteristics, strengthening the construction of socialist democracy and the legal system, and truly protecting the people's rights to be masters of their own country. I think we will continue to perfect the system of people's congresses and the system of multiparty cooperation and political consultation under the leadership of the CPC. At the same time, we will strengthen the vitality of party and governmental bodies by adopting such measures as making the ranks of cadres more revolutionary, younger, better educated, and professionally competent. We will improve the efficiency of policy-making and work by simplifying administrative organs and overcoming bureaucratism and formalism. We will fully enhance the enthusiasm of various trades and the masses at the grass-roots level by separating the functions of government and enterprise management and by delegating power to units at lower levels.

The overall objective of our political reform is to consolidate our socialist system and the party's leadership, to develop the productive forces under the leadership of the party and under the socialist system, to implement the line, policies, and principles advocated by Comrade Deng Xiaoping and formulated since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, and to create and maintain a stable social and political environment needed for economic development.

[KYODO reporter Matsuo] I would like to ask you about two points in relation to the economy. It is Japan's basic policy to support China's reform and open-door policy. Accordingly, I think that cooperation such as official development assistance, direct investment, and private-sector loans will continue to grow. Will you please tell us, as specifically as possible, what kinds of cooperation China most hopes to receive from Japan and in what fields?

A second topic is that there are, generally speaking, views among Western nations that official development assistance should not be provided to developing countries whose military outlays are excessive. I would be very happy if you could comment on this point as well.

[Jiang] I maintain that China and Japan have greatly developed their relations, in terms of economics and cooperation, on the basis of equality and mutual benefit during the 20 years since the normalization of relations. This has laid a good foundation. I believe that we want these economic and cooperative relations to be constantly expanded and strengthened. Japan's investment in China is not yet considered huge, as its total investments are perhaps still less than those of the United States. I feel that Japan still has great potential in the field of economic cooperation and is able to make additional efforts.

You have just expressed your interest in possible fields of economic cooperation in which we need the most assistance, and you have asked me to expound this point specifically. I am sorry that I can merely say that we are now at the point of taking economic construction as a central task and advancing it. Therefore, we need a fairly wide range of cooperation.

I believe that our Seventh Session of the 13th CPC Plenary Meeting and the government work report submitted to the National People's Congress, which was held later, have outlined in principle the requirements for the outcome of the Eighth Five-Year Program as a whole, as well as for the next 10 years.

As we all know, China's territory cannot be considered small, but it also has a large population. As to our absolute output, well, for example, our steel production has reached more than 70 million metric tons, coal 490 million metric tons, oil nearly 140 million metric tons, or rather, 139 million metric tons. To give another example, our electricity production has reached 600 billion kilowatt-hours. Nevertheless, taking the population into consideration, this absolute quantity, if divided by 1.06 billion, seems relatively small.

Therefore, in terms of the requirements for our general plans—that is, the Eighth Five-Year Plan, as well as the 10-Year Program—we wish to strengthen our development in the areas of energy, raw materials, and transportation.

To look at it from another angle, this absolute output quantity—for example, 70 million metric tons of steel—if we can improve all processing technologies and reduce wasted energy and raw materials to a relatively low level, then we can attain a fair margin of growth in steel production.

In our processing techniques—be they in the machine-building or light industrial field—there is a very strong demand for the further intensification of technical transformation aimed at applying certain advanced technologies. The move is also intended to develop our high technology so that our current extensive operations will be converted into intensive ones. As you have just said, we indeed suffer from low efficiency and bloated organizational structure. These phenomena are very important matters that we must resolve in the future. We will further streamline adminstration so as to achieve what we call better troops and simpler administration. We will also enhance our functions in macroeconomic management. At the same time, we will further push our enterprises into the market.

[RENMIN RIBAO reporter Sun Zhongmin] I am RENMIN RIBAO reporter Sun Zhongmin. I would like to ask a question on Sino-Japanese relations. General Secretary Jiang, Japan is the first Western developed country to be visited by you since becoming general secretary. What position do Sino-Japanese relations occupy in our country's foreign policy, our foreign relations? The 21st century is seven to eight years away. What do you expect from future Sino- Japanese relations?

[Jiang] I think actively developing good-neighborly relations with neighboring countries is an important part of our country's foreign policy. I think that Japan is our country's close neighbor. Besides, the people of our two countries enjoy a longstanding traditional friendship. I think that China has always attached importance to developing friendly and cooperative relations with Japan. As China and Japan can complement each other economically and are located close to each other geographically, there is enormous potential for cooperation. In the current turbulent international community, the development of Sino-Japanese relations is an indispensable factor for stability. As we enter the 21st century, I am fully confident of the development of Sino-Japanese bilateral relations. The prospect is encouraging.

[Japanese reporter Nirasawa] I am Nirasawa, an individual member of the club and a former editorial writer for NIHON KEIZAI SHIMBUN. When you met with Prime Minister Miyazawa, he spoke to you about the question of the emperor's visit to China. Are you completely satisfied with what the prime minister told you, or are you unhappy about it?

[Jiang] I think our bilateral talks with Prime Minister Miyazawa were very good. We were motivated by a desire to see the development of friendly Sino-Japanese relations. In particular, this year marks the 20th anniversary of the development of friendship between the two countries and of the establishment of normal diplomatic relations. Therefore, I have come here during a season when your cherry blossoms are in full bloom [Jiang laughs]. In our language, I come here during a season when the sun is bright and the spring is at its full splendor. I carry with me the Chinese people's friendship for the Japanese people. It is also out of a desire to develop friendship between the Chinese and Japanese peoples that we hope his majesty the emperor will visit China. As for how the Japanese side will go about this, that will be a matter to be considered by the Japanese. As for the specific date for his majesty the emperor's visit, it should be arranged by relevant departments on the two sides.

[JIJI reporter Shimura] I am Shimura of JIJI News Service. My first question is this: Several remarks made by Mr. Deng Xiaoping in January or February were distributed within the party at the end of February within the No. 2 document. Then, with this as a turning point, the party Central Committee plenum was held, and, subsequently, the policy on advancing reform and openness was decided in the National People's Congress. That is my understanding. What I sense strongly from this move is what is described in Chinese as yi yan tang [a single person having the final say], which came under harsh criticism following the Cultural Revolution. A little earlier, the general secretary said that political reform was aimed at the healthy construction of socialism or the development of socialist democracy. Nevertheless, if there is indeed a trend of yi yan tang, I feel that this would be a direction contrary to the one in which you said China was heading. What do you think about these views?

[Jiang] I find that reporters are more sensitive than an engineer like me. As I have just said, Comrade Deng Xiaoping's remarks made during his visit to the south embody his consistent thought. I have just noted that the line of reform and opening, which has been pursued since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee, was initiated by Comrade Deng Xiaoping. That is why we now frequently refer to him as the chief architect of the policy of reform and opening. The Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee recently held a special meeting. The strategy of further carrying out the reform and opening program that we have laid down completely conforms to what Comrade Xiaoping said. The unanimous endorsement expressed by the recent NPC session is also in complete agreement with what Comrade Deng Xiaoping said.

Therefore, logically speaking, Comrade Deng Xiaoping's remarks are in full agreement with his consistent thought since the Third Plenary Session of the 11th CPC Central Committee. Also, they agree with the people's wishes. The people and the entire party support them.

[Unidentified dean of the Tokyo press corps] It is already 1549. I would like to end the conference by 1555. Will you please help me do this? Last question, please.

[ASAHI SHIMBUN reporter Miyazaki] I am Miyazaki of ASAHI SHIMBUN. I would like to ask for your opinion on Japan's overseas dispatch of the Self-Defense Forces [SDF]. So far, I think, the general secretary has taken the position of remaining wary of SDF troops being sent abroad, except for the time when minesweepers were dispatched.

According to reports that have surfaced during your visit to Japan, you have expressed a view that you would not mind if such dispatches are for peaceful purposes, such as disaster assistance. Can you explain your thinking on this issue in relation to Sino-Japanese relations of the past?

[Jiang] I think many gentlemen have raised this same question during my visit. Many visitors from your country also questioned me on this matter when I was in China. My answer to this question is a consistent one. Japan has enjoyed rapid economic growth. It is fair to say that Japan has become a world economic power. Therefore, as I said, if natural disasters occur somewhere, it would be a good thing, I believe, for countries with better economic conditions to provide some form of economic aid to disaster-stricken countries.

We still sincerely hope that Japan will continue to follow the road of peaceful development and make contributions to promoting peace and development in Asia and the world. We hope for this because it will not only conform to the interests of the Japanese people, but it also will be welcome by the peoples of Asia and the world. As is known by all, Japan's sending troops overseas is a sensitive question, I am afraid. Therefore, as a friendly neighbor of Japan, we hope that prudence is taken in handling this question. This is what I have implied.

[Dean of Tokyo press corps] With this I would like to end this news conference, even though I know there are some people who will not be happy about this.

U.S. Request Regarding Plutonium Escort Denied

OW0704111492 Tokyo KYODO in English 1106 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—The United States has not asked Japan to increase the number of ships escorting freighters carrying plutonium from Europe to Japan, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Spokesman Masamichi Hanabusa said a recent newspaper report that U.S. officials had asked Japan to boost the number of escort ships "seems to be unfounded."

The report in the YOMIURI SHIMBUN on Sunday said the U.S. made the request out of concern that the single Maritime Safety Agency armed escort vessel to be employed would not be enough to prevent a possible terrorist hijacking of the deadly cargo.

U.S. officials also said that the escort ship, the Shikishima, which has the ability to cruise nonstop from Europe to Japan without refueling, could have an accident or develop operational trouble and there would be no backup system, according to the newspaper.

Commenting on Japan's proposed plutonium shipments, U.S. State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher said Monday, "Overall, we're satisfied with the plan and will continue to work with the Japanese to ensure its full implementation."

'Trans-Pacific Bickering' Over Russia Aid Noted

OW0704122992 Tokyo KYODO in English 1216 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Tokyo, April 7 KYODO—The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is likely to announce formal acceptance of the former Soviet republics to membership at its interim committee meeting at the end of April, a senior official of the Finance Ministry said Tuesday.

The official, who refused to be identified, said the announcement could be made on April 28 at the earliest.

He said Russia as a whole will likely be given a 3 percent stake in the international lending committee.

The voting of the IMF members over the CIS memberships will start following the approval by the IMF board of directors, he said.

The official also said assistance to the former Soviet republics, the world economic outlook, and the IMF's ninth quota increase are on the agenda for the semiannual meeting of the organization, to be held April 27-28 in Washington.

He also said the former Soviet republics other than Russia may need financial assistance from the West similar to that the Group of Seven (G-7) Western industrialized countries is considering providing to Russia.

The official, however, said the G-7 have yet to agree on the total amount or the sources of funds for an economic rescue plan to Russia despite the announcements last week by Germany and the U.S. of a 24 billion dollar package.

Trans-Pacific bickering has developed over whether the G-7 countries had actually reached an agreement over the package, announced by President George Bush and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl last Wednesday.

The package includes 6 billion dollars for a fund to stabilize the ruble and 18 billion dollars to help Russia avert defaulting on its foreign debts.

The MOF official said it was premature to announce the plan, although he admitted the G-7 countries had been approaching an agreement.

As for the 18 billion dollars in aid to pay for Russia's balance of payments deficit, the official said the G-7 had been discussing the aid on the basis of 12 billion dollar deficit estimated by the IMF.

The MOF official said the G-7 had been discussing an additional 6 billion dollars as "reserve" aid to help Russia cover its balance of payments deficits, but denied any final agreement on the plan.

Yet he added, "it isn't that Japan is being pressed over something on which it hasn't had any say."

The official said it is still too early to say whether the 6 billion dollars will be sufficient to stabilize the Russian currency, which has been depreciating under a runaway inflation.

"The 6 billion dollars is the amount that has been requested by the Russian Government," he said.

North Korea

Supreme People's Assembly Session Opens 8 Apr

SK0804015292 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0100 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] The Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA] of the DPRK opened today at the Mansudae Assembly Hall.

The great leader of our party and people Comrade Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee and president of the DPRK, attended the session.

Deputies to the SPA attended the session.

Functionaries of the party, power organs, administrative and economic institutions, and public organizations, as well as functionaries in the fields of science, education, culture, art, public health, and press and publications attended the session as observers, along with Chongnyon [General Association of Korean Residents in Japan] functionaries who are staying in the socialist fatherland.

Invited to the session were diplomatic representatives of various countries stationed in our country.

The session adopted agenda items as follows:

1. On the settlement of the state budget executed in 1991 and the state budget for 1992;

2. On endorsing the laws discussed and decided on by the SPA Standing Committee of the DPRK during the SPA recess;

3. On deliberation of the proposal for ratifying the nuclear safeguards accord pursuant to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty signed between the DPRK Government and the International Atomic Energy Agency;

4. On partially revising and supplementing the socialist Constitution of the DPRK.

The session went on to discuss the first agenda item.

More on Opening of Session

SK0804120992 Pyongyang KCNA in English 1104 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Excerpts] Pyongyang April 8 (KCNA)—The Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly (SPA) of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea opened today at the Mansudae Assembly Hall. [passage omitted]

Stepping on to the platform were O Chin-u, member of the Presidium of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee and minister of People's Armed Forces; Vice-Presidents Yi Chong-ok and Pak Song-chol; Premier of the Administration Council Yon Hyong-muk; Vice-Premier of the Administration Council Kim Yong-nam; Chief of the General Staff of the Korean People's Army Choe Kwang; Secretaries of the party Central Committee Chon Pyong-ho and Han Song-yong; chief secretary of the South Pyongan provincial party committee and chairman of the South Pyongan provincial people's committee So Un-sok and chief secretary of the North Hangyong provincial party committee and chairman of the North Hamgyong provincial people's committee Kang Son-san, who are members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; Secretary of the party Central Committee Choe Tae-pok; Vice-Premier of the Administration Council Choe Yong-nim; Kim Chol-man; Vice-Premiers of the Administration Council Hong Song-nam, Hong Si-ha, Kim Pok-sin and Kang Hui-won, who are alternate members of the Political Bureau of the WPK Central Committee; Yi Kye-paek, chairman of the Central Committee of the Korean Social Democratic Party; Chong Sin-hyok, chairman of the Cental Committee of the Chondoist Chongu Party; members of the Central People's Committee; and members of the Standing Committee of the SPA. [passage omitted]

Deputy Pak Nam-ki, chairman of the Budget Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, delivered a report of the Committee on the results of the fulfilment of the state budget for 1991 and state budget for 1992 of the DPRK. [passage omitted]

The speakers said that the state budget for 1991 was correctly fulfilled along the line of socialist economic construction and the financial policy of the party put forward by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song, thus greatly contributing to increasing the might of the country, promoting the material and cultural wellbeing of the people and highly displaying the superiority of Korean-style socialism centering on the popular masses.

The successful fulfilment of the state budget last year proves the validity of the economic policy of our party which relies on the creative labour of the popular masses and strictly serves them and the solidity of our socialist finance, they stressed.

The speakers fully approved and supported the state budget for 1992, saying that it was so compiled as to financially ensure with success our people's efforts to vigorously acclerate socialist economic construction and increase the might of the country under the wise leadership of the party and the leader.

The session continues.

Yang Hyong-sop Gives Opening Address

SK0804093792 Pyongyang Korean Central Broadcasting Network in Korean 0604 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Opening address given by Yang Hyong-sop, chairman of the Standing Committee of the Supreme People's Assembly, SPA, at the opening session of the Third Session of the Ninth SPA at the Mansudae Assembly Hall in Pyongyang on 8 April—recorded]

[Text] Comrade deputies: Today, when all the people across the country are vigorously struggling to accelerate socialist construction and fatherland reunification and upholding the militant task put forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song in his New Year's address and in the 17th plenary meeting of the sixth party Central Committee and the party's call with overflowing faith and optimism, we begin the Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly [SPA].

From the Second Session of the Ninth SPA until today, our people have firmly defended the chuche socialist cause and powerfully demonstrated the superiority of the popular-masses-centered socialism of our own style, undisturbed in this rapidly changing historical situation, by effecting a new upsurge in the revolution and construction with wholehearted unity around the party and the leader. [applause]

Under the wise leadership of the party and the leader, our people have further strengthened the country's political and economic might and opened a firm prospect for accelerating the victory of the socialist cause; upholding the revolutionary banner of the chuche idea and the banner of socialism; vigorously conducting the three revolutions—ideological, technological, and cultural—in all fields of the revolution and construction; and waging a devoted struggle with the firm faith and will that "What the party decides, we will do." [applause]

Our party and the government of the republic has again drastically increased the income of the working people based on the success in socialist construction and has taken momentous measures to enhance the people's overall living standard, so that the people could receive greater benefits from the state. This is another of example of the brilliant results of our party and government's people-oriented policy, in which they do everything systematically to promote the people's material and cultural well being. [applause]

Thanks to the persistent struggle of the compatriots in the North, the South, and overseas, a considerable advance has been made in the realization of the fatherland's reunification. Thanks to the correct national reunification policy and sincere efforts of the Workers

Party of Korea and the government, the Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression, and Cooperation and Exchange Between the North and the South and the Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula were adopted and have been effectuated. Thus, a new phase has been opened in the struggle for peaceful reunification. [applause]

Thanks to the government's independent and peace-loving external policy based on the ideals of independence, peace, and friendship, the republic's international position is more favorable, and international solidarity with our people in the cause of reunification has been strengthened. [applause]

The brilliant successes attained by our people in the revolution and construction and in the struggle to crush the antisocialist and antirepublic maneuvers of the imperialists and reactionaries clearly demonstrate the justness and vitality of our party's policy, which embodies a firm independent position and high revolutionary principle. This also shows that there is no force that can stop the advance of our people, who are waging a vigorous struggle for the victory of socialism firmly united around the party and the leader. [applause]

Our people are now accelerating a vigorous great march to complete the new militant task put forth by the great leader Comrade Kim Il-song with absolute trust in our leader and our party, who always lead the revolution along the single road of victory, and under the party's leadership in any adversity, achieving a great labor upsurge in the rewarding struggle to make this significant year the most shining victorious year in the history of our fatherland.

This SPA is held in a historical period, and it will discuss issues of importance and significance in socialist construction and in the realization of the peaceful reunification of the country, thus contributing greatly to accelerating the chuche revolutionary cause.

Out of 673 SPA deputies, 650 are participating in the Third Session of the Ninth SPA. With conviction that the SPA will smoothly discuss and decide on the agenda items with the active participation of all the comrade deputies, I declare the Third Session of the Ninth SPA open according to Article 78, Chapter 5 of the DPRK Socialist Constitution. [applause]

1991 Budget, 1992 Plans Discussed

SK0804042392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
0406 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Pyongyang April 8 (KCNA)—The results of the fulfilment of the state budget for 1991 and the state budget for 1992 of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea are being discussed at the Third Session of the Ninth Supreme People's Assembly which opened here today.

According to the report presented by deputy Yun Ki-chong, minister of finance, to the session, the total amount of state budgetary revenues last year reached 37,194,840,000 won, or 100.2 percent of the plan. The total state budgetary expenditures ran into 36,909,240,000 won, or 99.4 percent of the plan.

The total state budgetary revenues last year rose 4.2 percent and expenditures 3.9 percent above the 1990 figures.

The revenue from turnover levies which take a large share in the state budgetary revenues increased 5.8 percent and the revenue from the state-run enterprises 5.7 percent above the previous year.

The state budget last year was successfully fulfilled with a surplus of 285,600,000 won after fully meeting the vast needs for fund to increase the might of the country, promote the socialist economic conbstruction and improve the people's living standard.

Last year, the state increased the appropriations for the naoional economy 4.4 percent above 1990.

The state budgetary investments in the mining and power industries and railway transport last year rose 5.2 percent above the previous year.

The state disbursed a colossal amount of fund 3.5 percent up on the previous year for social and cultural measures, with a view to promoting the building of socialist culture.

The state allocated 12.1 percent of the total state budgetary expenditures to defence spendings.

The revenues and the expenditures of the state budget for 1992 are set at 39,500,920,000 won each, or 6.2 percent higher in revenue and 7 percent higher in expenditure than last year.

This year the state will augment the expenditures for the national economy 6.5 percent above last year and largely increase the investments in capital construction of the state such as industrial construction and housing construction in order to strengthen the might of chuche industry and more satisfactorily solve the problem of food, clothing and housing for the people.

This year the DPRK Government will increase the expenditures for social and cultural measures and additional measures 11.6 percent above last year.

It will allot 11.6 percent of the total state budgetary expenditures to defence spendings in order to firmly defend the gains of the revolution and safeguard the security of the socialist motherland and the people.

Remarks by Japan's Watanabe Called 'Provocative'

SK0804104392 Pyongyang KCNA in English
1022 GMT 8 Apr 92

["DPRK Foreign Ministry Spokesman on Outburst of Japanese Foreign Minister"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 8 (KCNA)—A spokesman of the DPRK Foreign Ministry in an interview with KCNA today commented on the provocative utterances of the Japanese foreign minister against the DPRK.

The spokesman told KCNA:

The Japanese ASAHI SHIMBUN quoted Japanese Foreign Minister Watanabe as saying in his lecture in Kanuma, Tochigi Prefecture, on April 4 that "it was confirmed that the terrorist attack in Rangoon was made by North Korea" and that "North Korea is unreliable" and that "progress can be expected" in the talks for the normalization of the Japan-DPRK diplomatic relations only after the DPRK allows "an independent nuclear inspection" apart from the nuclear inspection by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to prove that the nuclear facilities are used only for a peaceful purpose. If this is true, we can hardly repress surprise at the fact that the top diplomatic official of Japan slandered and insulted the DPRK by bringing forward the socalled "bomb blast in Rangoon" which had been branded by history as a work of the South Korean authorities themselves, at a time when the talks for the normalization of the DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations are under way and that he took issue with the DPRK over the problem of nuclear inspection of it at a time when this problem is about to be solved.

This means that the Japanese Government authorities have not taken a step backward in their outdated one-sided policy whereby it antagonized the DPRK, teaming up with the South Korean authorities. This was motivated by a sinister political intention to impair the dignity of the DPRK.

The Japanese Government authorities raised an "independent inspection", abandoning their demand hitherto for an inspection by the IAEA at a time when "nuclear suspicion" on the DPRK is about to be dispelled with the forthcoming inspection by the IAEA. This made it self-evident that Japan needs "an imaginary North Korea possessed of nuclear weapons" rather than "North Korea without nuclear weapons."

The provocative and irresponsible utterances of the Japanese foreign minister were motivated by a crafty intention to foster the "suspicion of nuclear development" by the DPRK and find a pretext for building Japan into a military power and arming her with nuclear weapons. What draws our particular attention is that this outburst came at a time when Japan is openly seeking the dispatch of the Self-defence Forces overseas while promoting the building of a military power.

His speech is a very improper one to lay artificial hurdles in the way of the progress of the intergovernmental talks for the normalization of the DPRK-Japan diplomatic relations.

We will watch the future acts of the Japanese authorities.

Paper Condemns U.S. Commander's Comments

SK0704103492 Pyongyang KCNA in English 0958 GMT 7 Apr 92

["Sophism for Keeping U.S. Forces in S. Korea"—KCNA headline]

[Text] Pyongyang April 7 (KCNA)—Papers here in a commentary today hit out at the remarks of RisCassi, commander of the U.S. Forces occupying South Korea, in his testimony at the Armed Services Committee of the U.S. House of Representatives.

Crying over the North's "superior military power" and "danger of attack on the South", RisCassi blared that the United States would keep its forces in South Korea to maintain "military equilibrium" on the Korean peninsula and "deter armed provocation" of the North.

Branding it as a shameless sophism aimed at justifying the U.S. military occupation of South Korea, a NODONG SINMUN analyst says:

The U.S. military let the local commander spin out the nonsensical sophism which had been refuted long ago. This is a criminal act aimed at throwing a wet blanket over the positive developments on the Korean peninsula and continuing to pursue the policy of aggression and war.

Thinly veiled is the intention of the United States to keep its forces in South Korea. They seek to direct the sharp edge of their anti-socialist Asia-Pacific strategy to the DPRK and execute this reactionary strategy with South Korea as the foremost base of attack.

The rumour about "North's military superiority" and "danger of attack on the South" spread by it to justify its continued occupation of South Korea is a downright fabrication and a base fiction for misleading the world opinion.

The talk of the U.S. bellicose elements about "military equilibrium" is also a ridiculous jargon.

The U.S. Forces present in South Korea are not a "deterrent" but forces of aggression and war, and their presence is the very source of threat to peace on the Korean peninsula.

The danger of aggression comes not from the North but from the South.

A MINJU CHOSON analyst says that the U.S. reactionary ruling quarters must no more do such act as provoking us with groundless fact but pull their aggression forces out of South Korea at once.

Laos' Kaysone Confers Medal on Kim Il-song

BK0604142992 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 1200 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] According to a report from the DPRK Embassy in Laos, on 5 April, Kaysone Phomvihan, chairman of the Lao People's Revolutionary Party Central Committee [LPRP CC] and president of the Lao People's Democratic Republic [LPDR], met with Kim Il-song, general secretary of the Workers' Party of Korea [WPK] and president of the DPRK. The meeting between the top leaders of the two countries proceeded in a friendly and frank atmosphere.

Attending the meeting, on the Lao side, were Somsavat Lengsavat, member of the party Central Committee and chief of the office of the party Central Committee; Soulivong Phasitthidet, deputy head of the Foreign Relations Board of the party Central Committee and deputy foreign affairs minister; and Phongsavat Boupha, Lao ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the DPRK; and, on the Korean side, Yi Chong-ok, member of the WPK CC Political Bureau and vice president; Kim Yong-nam, member of the WPK CC Political Bureau, vice premier, and foreign minister; Chong Song-nam, minister of external economic relations; Kim Yang-kon, vice director of the Foreign Relations Board of the WPK CC; and Chang Yong-chun, DPRK ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary to the LPDR.

At the same time, President Kaysone Phomvihan also conferred the National Gold Medal, the highest order of the LPDR, on President Kim Il-song on the occasion of his 80th birthday. President Kim Il-song hosted a banquet in honor of Kaysone Phomvihan and his entourage.

South Korea

Korean USFK Employees Hold Protest Rallies

SK0704015192 Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English 7 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] Koreans hired by the U.S. Forces Korea [USFK] called on both the USFK and their government to set up proper measures to guarantee them safe employment yesterday in rallies at major American military bases throughout the country.

About 18,000 unionized members of the Korean Service Corps [KSC], a nationwide organization of Korean USFK employees, turned out at the rallies held at 14 U.S. Army and Air Force bases including Kunsan Air Base and Camp Humphreys near Pyongtaek, the KSC said.

The Korean employees urged the authorities concerned to work out appropriate steps to transfer to other jobs those who are dismissed from the U.S. bases.

In a four-point resolution, the Korean civilians demanded that the U.S. military authorities immediately re-introduce the progressive severance payment system, which was abolished in 1979.

Kang In-sik, president of the KSC, said in a telephone interview that the massive layoffs which started together with the first phase-out of the U.S. troops in late 1990 had reduced the number of Korean employees from 23,000 to 18,000.

Massive layoffs, he forecast, would also occur in coming years since the U.S. planned to continue its phased troop pullout from here.

The KSC leader emphasized that dismissals without any compensation threatened the livelihoods of the Korean employees.

Kang said that the KSC reported to the Labor Ministry a dispute over stable employment and re-introduction of the progressive severance payment system Oct. 19, 1990.

The labor dispute was referred to the related committee of the ROK-U.S. Status of Forces Agreement, he said.

But they had not made any tangible progress in the dispute at the SOFA panel, he added.

He also revealed that in late 1990, Gen. Louis C. Menetrey, then USFK commander, sent to the Korean government authorities a missive in which he called for financial support for the layoffs.

The Korean government has yet to reply to Gen. Menetrey's letter.

The USFK and the Korean government should closely cooperate in arranging job transfer opportunities for those laid off, Kang said.

He said most Korean employees who had served for more than 20 consecutive years on U.S. bases could switch to jobs in Korean industrial facilities, because they had a good knowledge of technology in the fields of communications, ammunition and other specialized areas, he added.

Roughly 1,500 people, meanwhile, rallied at the Knight Field of the Yongsan Compound in Seoul yesterday afternoon.

In the meantime, the USFK, commenting on the labor actions in a press release, said it continues its efforts to ensure the well-being of those Koreans separated by reduction in Force (RIF) despite its reduced budgets and other adjustments.

The USFK, however, rejected the request for special severance pay as not acceptable nor justified, claiming that it provides a severance pay system, which was fully negotiated with :he union of the KSC in 1979 and approved by the U.S. and Korean governments as an international agreement.

It also said it recognizes some employees, especially those who had been laid-off prior to their scheduled retirement, will face problems in their transition to Korean employment.

Foreign Minister To Visit China 12-17 Apr

SK0804021692 Seoul YONHAP in English 0152 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP)—South Korean Foreign Minister Yi Sang-ok will visit Beijing April 12-17 to attend the 48th session of the U.N. Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday.

Yi will visit Mongolia April 17-20 before returning to Seoul, the Ministry said.

The foreign minister is scheduled to have talks with his Chinese counterpart Qian Qichen during his stay and to discuss bilateral ties, including the normalization of Seoul-Beijing relations.

He will meet with Mongolian President Punsalmaagiyn Ochirbat and Foreign Minister Tserenpiliyn Gombosuren while in Ulaanbaatar for talks on promoting bilateral ties. He will sign an accord on avoidance of double taxation with Gombosuren.

Korea hosted the 47th ESCAP session in Seoul in April last year and Yi goes to Beijing in his capacity as the chairman of the previous session, but this is the first visit to China by a South Korean foreign minister.

Yi and Qian met last at the United Nations on Oct. 2, 1991, when they were in New York for the U.N. General Assembly. The meeting opened a new phase in Seoul-Beijing ties and later led to a meeting between Qian and Korean President No Tae-u in Seoul during the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting last November.

Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng and Communist Party Secretary General Jiang Zemin are expected at the ESCAP session, as well as U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus Ghali. Yi may have an opportunity to meet these officials during the session, ministry officials said.

North Korea, which becomes a full member of ESCAP at the Beijing session, is most likely to send Kim Tal-hyon, chairman of the External Economic Commission, they said.

Yi will deliver a keynote speech April 15 stressing regional cooperation, especially on the environment.

ROK, PRC To Hold Trade Officials Meeting

SK0804095492 Seoul YONHAP in English 0744 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP)—South Korea and China have agreed to hold a high-level trade officials' meeting in Seoul early in the second half of the year, Assistant Trade and Industry Minister Yu Tuk-hwan said Wednesday.

Yu said the agreement was reached during his visit to China from March 28-April 4. He was the first Korean official of his rank officially invited by the Chinese Government.

Tian Runzhi, Chinese assistant minister of foreign economic relations and trade, will visit Seoul soon to discuss the working- level meeting, aimed at following up the effectuation of a bilateral trade agreement signed in December last year.

During Yu's stay in Beijing, China asked for Korea's active participation in the construction of steel, video cassette recorder and naphtha-cracking plants under the eighth five-year economic development plan.

China also expressed the hope that South Korean firms would take part in the free trade zone being planned in Pudong, Yu said.

The Chinese Government might positively consider expanding the sales of Korea-China joint ventures in China, he said.

The two governments also agreed to increase two-way trade from 5.8 billion U.S. dollars last year to over 8 billion dollars this year, he said.

Investment Guarantee Talks With PRC Open

SK0704021592 Seoul YONHAP in English 0151 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 7 (YONHAP)—Working-level officials from South Korea and China opened negotiations for an agreement guaranteeing investment at the Korean Foreign Ministry Tuesday. The talks will continue through Friday.

Korean officials will again raise the issue of China's granting national treatment to Korean companies in investment during the talks.

The two countries failed to narrow their differences on the issue during the third economic talks in Beijing last month. The two countries have yet to establish diplomatic relations.

China said at that time that it had no precedent for granting national treatment to foreign countries and therefore it would be difficult to do so for South Korea.

Yun Hae-chong, deputy director-general of the Asian Affairs Bureau of the Foreign Ministry, heads the Korean delegation and the Chinese side is headed by Yin Tieou, a deputy director at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade.

The two countries signed a trade pact last December abolishing China's so-called discriminatory taxes on Korean products ranging from 5 percent to 30 percent.

Ministry Task Force Readies for UNCED Session

SK0804063092 Seoul YONHAP in English 0251 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP)—The Foreign Ministry has formed a special task force to prepare for the U.N.

Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro June 3-14, officials said Wednesday.

The task force is to put together inter-governmental measures on the conference agenda, including environmental technology transfer, marine life preservation and trade restrictions.

Assistant Foreign Minister Ho Song heads the team, which comprises the ambassador in charge of environmental matters, director-general of the ministry's international economic bureau and officials from other ministries.

UNCED plans to adopt a Rio declaration on the environment and the development of overall protection measures, and to focus on a global agreement on climate change and biological diversity.

Decisions made at the conference will set guidelines on using chemicals destructive to the earth. Ministry officials say heated debate is expected on technology transfer from developed to less- developed countries.

Korea will speak strongly for sharing technology and against the unilateral setting of fishing quotas in international waters, the officials said.

It will also oppose trade sanctions against countries that violate the terms of the Rio declaration.

Australia Urged To Lower Tariffs, Stop Lawsuits

SK0804063292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0413 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 8 (YONHAP)—Trade and Industry Minister Han Pong-su asked John Button, Australia's industry, technology and commerce minister, to refrain from filing excessive anti-dumping suits against South Korean imports and to lower tariffs on textiles and automobiles Wednesday.

Han and Button, who is also the government party's floor leader of the Australian Senate, agreed to review the opening of Korea-Australia scientific and industrial programs to develop cooperation in the industry and technology fields.

Button called for Korean enterprises to take part in Australia's multi-functional city construction project in Adelaide, which is to be carried out over 20-30 years.

Korea's trade deficit with Australia grew 23.6 percent to 2.02 billion U.S. dollars last year.

* Kim Chong-il Restructures North's Military

922C0105A Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 17 Jan 92 p 20

[By reporter O Tae-chin: "The Military in the Middle of Shifting Over in Generation, Busy Improving Treatment of Personnel: Kim Chong-il Sets Out To Tighten His Grip; Leaves Canceled, Among Other Things; Life Gets Worse as Food Shortage, Social Unrest Continue—North Korea as Seen by a Korean-Chinese Visitor"]

[Text] Kim Chong-il, installed as the supreme military commander toward the end of last year, is striving to close his grip on the military by carrying out, among other things, a sweeping shakeup of officer-grade personnel and improving service conditions. Leaves were cancelled and all units were put on alert along with intensified security measures. These moves were reported by a Korean-Chinese living in Shenyang, China, who recently visited North Korea. He toured Pyongyang and the Kaechon-Nampo area, South Pyongan Province, and the Kusong-Chongju area, North Pyongan Province, for two months from early November through the end of December last year. It was his fifth visit to North Korea. The following is a report on recent moves and the people's livelihood in North Korea based on an account by this visitor who is presently staying in Seoul. (Editor's note)

Immediately after Kim Chong-il's installation as the supreme commander of the People's Army on 24 December, a sweeping shakeup of officer-grade personnel took place.

Low-grade officers were promoted en masse while aged officers were transferred to provincial posts. In Yongbyon alone, security was tightened markedly and officers there were mostly replaced by graduates of the Mangyongdae Revolutionary Institute. Kim Chong-il just set out to bring about a shift in generation to consolidate his power base within the military.

Mess hall side-dishes for servicemen have improved markedly while the treatment for military dependent families also improved. Directives were issued to the people's neighborhood units in all provinces to "look after military dependent families in every way"; as a result, they are accorded priority in receiving their rations for food and other daily necessities.

Busy movements of weapons were seen at an underground munitions depot in Kusong, North Pyongan Province. Work to replace obsolete weapons—in storage since the early 1970's—with new equipment is under way in various places. Military personnel are confined to the barracks even on holidays.

Right after his installation as the commander in chief, Kim Chong-il called division commanders and higher-level military leaders into the first secret meeting in Pyongyang.

Food Ration Cut by Another 50 Grams

Then came the street placards such as those reading "One a Match for 100," "Let Us Put the Reunification of the Fatherland in the First Place—Ahead of Our Lives" and "Attain the Great Cause of the Reunification of the Fatherland in Our Generation."

The North Korean population is feeling uneasy as the activities to improve treatment of military personnel and replace their equipment with new ones go on, stirring the atmosphere around them. They fear that "maybe a war is coming." A tankman said, apprehensively: "Hogs are better fed before being butchered."

The people believe that Kim Il-song will transfer his power to Kim Chong-il on 15 April, marking his 80th birthday. They also expect that there will be a partial purge of leaders before that.

The food situation has worsened further for residents in general. The regular 700-grams-a-day grain ration—already cut by 50 grams "for supply to the starving people in the southern half on the day of the reunification of the fatherland"—has been reduced by another 50 grams in preparation for the leader's 80th birthday. A slogan posted on streets reads: "Let us save rice, even a grain of it, for our leader's 80th birthday."

Beggars and burglars are rampant in provincial cities. When I stayed in Kusong Chollima Hotel, more than 20 guests in rooms on the lowest floor had their shoes stolen in one night. After the incident, I took my shoes inside the room before going to bed.

Witnessed People's Trial in Kanggye

I never saw a train operating punctually. They blamed it on a fuel shortage.

In Pyongyang, the supply of bean paste has been cut off for four months since August last year and residents were raising a hue and cry. Red pepper and garlic were also virtually unavailable, so residents had to eat just salted cabbage instead of kimchi.

People were seen expressing their discontent rather openly. One of them, deriding the "We have nothing to envy in this world" slogan, said, in a tone of self-scorn, "It is true because we know nothing about the world other than ours."

Meanwhile, public order also has slackened. On the northern railway construction site in the Kanggye-Manpo area, Chagang Province, fighting broke out between "youth shock brigades" of workers drafted from various places. One of the ringleaders was tried in a kangaroo court and was summarily burned at the stake. According to a person who attended the trial, "the defendant's father was ordered to pile up the firewood and his mother to kindle them." In a restaurant in Nampo, there was fighting between tankmen and Ministry of Public Security personnel, involving 70 to 80 men altogether.

Everywhere I went, I saw the increasing arrogance of members of the Three Revolutions Teams, personal guards for Kim Chong-il. Neighbors were watching one another under the "five households responsibility law" holding them jointly responsible for offenses committed by any individual neighbor.

When the lock on my suitcase broke, I went to buy a pair of pliers but the shop clerk refused to sell one to me. "We are not allowed to sell pliers to customers with no permit because they are a tool of destruction," the clerk said, demanding a paper of the Ministry of Public Security approving the sale.

Seminar Discusses North-South Nuclear Issue

SK0804030092 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 6 Apr 92 p 4

[Report on seminar held at Taeryuk Institute in Seoul entitled: "Nuclear Inspection and Review of South-North Relations;" no date given; first paragraph is editor's note]

[Text] At a time when North Korea's veiled nuclear development project advancement draws extraordinary attention at home and abroad, Taeryuk Institute, a judicial foundation headed by Chang Tok-chin, recently held a seminar on policy affairs with the theme of "North Korea's Nuclear Inspection and Review of South-North Relations." Kim Tae-u, senior member of the Defense Affairs Institute, delivered a speech on the central theme of the seminar, and Yi Ki-tak, professor at Yonsei University; Kim Kuk-chin, chief researcher of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security; Nam Chu-hong, professor at National Defense College; and Pak Yong-kyu, senior member of National Reunification Institute in charge of policy affairs, participated in the debates at the seminar.

The Central Theme:

Since last year, North Korea has continued in reversing its stand on nuclear diplomacy and has been stalling for time. When U.S. President Bush declared the withdrawal of U.S. nuclear weapons last 27 September, North Korea, which has persistently called for their withdrawal, went one step further and called for the "complete removal of the nuclear umbrella."

Although the ROK's 8 November non-nuclear declaration and 18 December declaration on the absence of nuclear weapons in its territory was a concession that practically gave them more than what North Korea wanted, North Korea began once again calling for "turning the Korean peninsula into a nuclear-free zone."

North Korea's signing of the nuclear safeguards accord with the International Atomic Energy Agency on 30 January showed great progress in the settlement of the nuclear issue. However, it remains to be seen whether it will sincerely accept nuclear inspection.

In this context, the South-North joint declaration on denuclearization has a few problems. North Korea's proposal for "denuclearization" has not specifically mentioned a complete abandonment of nuclear weapons.

Even more, paragraph two in the declaration that states peaceful use of nuclear energy and paragraph three that declares the abandonment of enriched and reprocessed nuclear materials possession are not only mutually contradictory, but they are also unreasonable.

Use of North Korea's nuclear facilities for military purposes must be prevented through international inspection. Yet it is not necessary to give up facilities indefinitely and to deny us the opportunity to possess reprocessing facilities.

Since eight out of nine commercial nuclear reactors operating in our country are heavy water reactors fueled by enriched uranium, our country has no choice but to import enriched uranium from abroad due to an absence of our own uranium reprocessing facilities

Depending on the attitude of the nuclear powers that monopolize the supplies of enriched uranium, our nuclear reactors will not be able to avoid supply crises. The reprocessing of nuclear material is a process of separating various materials from "nuclear waste," the materials produced after nuclear fuel is burned by the reactor.

Therefore, to abandon the enrichment and reprocessing of nuclear material translates into an enormous loss.

By promising that our country, which at the moment has no nuclear enrichment and reprocessing facilities, will not possess them in the future, our country will inevitably suffer enormous economic and technological loss. At the same time, once a country acquires enrichment and reprocessing facilities, the country in possession of these facilities is bound to wield considerable political and diplomatic influence, whether it wants to or not, as these facilities are considered to be a "seed" for nuclear capability.

Nevertheless, we had to renounce nuclear enrichment and reprocessing in the aftermath of the ROK-U.S. relations created by North-South structure involving the nuclear issue, rather than as an independent step to remove North Korea's nuclear threat.

Nuclear enrichment and reprocessing are basically technology for peaceful purposes, and yet they can be abused in nuclear armament. This is why nuclear enrichment and reprocessing are closely checked by the nuclear powers. Therefore, it can be said that the renunciation of nuclear enrichment and reprocessing means the acceptance of the United States' indiscriminate policy of banning nuclear proliferation to prevent nuclear capability from expanding to non-nuclear countries.

In this context, the idea of bombing Yongbyon now spreading among U.S. Government officials and the U.S. assertion calling for "linking" the issue of solving the nuclear issue with the issue of exchange and cooperation between North and South Korea reveal today's ROK-U.S. relations under the North-South structure involving the nuclear issue, including renouncing nuclear enrichment and reprocessing.

Bombing Yongbyon will contaminate the whole of the Korean peninsula and create an overall confrontation between the North and the South.

The ultimate solution to the nuclear issue is not aimed at the nuclear issue itself but at achieving peaceful coexistence and restoring mutual trust. Therefore, the "linking" policy, too, has nothing to do with the long-term national interests of our country. It reflects to a considerable extent the stand of the United States on achieving nuclear nonproliferation.

In order to eliminate nuclear threats between the North and the South, North Korean leaders should accept military verification under the general principle of "trust through verification." However, while refusing to allow North Korea's nuclear facilities to be subjected to inspections, Kim Il-song has repeated the remarks on "nonexistence of nuclear weapons." This is nothing but a far-fetched assertion.

The ROK government's nuclear policy should take the following into consideration in order to establish new North-South relations in the future:

First, our nuclear policy should be implemented, keeping in mind the national goals which a reunified Korea should seek.

Our government should carry out an omnidirectional diplomacy, rather than carry out today's diplomacy of relying on the United States. Our government should also play the role of "mediator of Northeast Asia."

Second, it is desirable to carry out arms control between the North and the South, placing an emphasis on "restoring mutual trust." In arms reduction, the quantitative aspects should be emphasized. It is desirable to shelve qualitative reduction to cope with the post-reunification period and the multipolar era. It is not desirable to carry out nuclear arms control in such a way as to eliminate the nuclear capability itself for good.

Third, our plan should be established so as to cope with the possibility of North Korea taking an aberrant course.

A deadline for the ratification of the nuclear safeguards accord and for the realization of mutual and international inspections should be made public, and if this deadline is not observed, our government should alter our nuclear policy immediately, declare its intention to reconsider the denuclearization declaration, and attempt to possess enrichment and reprocessing facilities.

'Gist' of Seminar Discussion

SK0804030792 Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean 6 Apr 92 p 4

["Gist" of discussion at seminar hosted by the Taeryuk Institute by Yi Ki-tak, Yonsei University professor; Kim Kuk-chin, chief researcher at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security; Nam Chu-hong, National Defense College professor; and Pak Yong-kyu, chief researcher at the Institute of National Reunification—in Seoul; date not given]

[Text] [Yi Ki-tak] The South-North military balance involves the single military capability of the North and, on the part of the South, the ROK military might plus the nuclear deterrence of the U.S. forces. Because of the denuclearization, the nuclear deterrence of the U.S. forces no longer exists. South and North currently stand face to face in conventional military might. Therefore, the North and South are not in a situation that they can deter a war in advance, but they have been placed under the concept of defense under which they will have to fight if a war breaks out.

We made a concession regarding the Team Spirit joint military exercise which provides the opportunity for military cooperation with the United States; in reality, we ourselves were responsible for the removal of U.S. nuclear weapons.

In some sense, the denuclearization declaration on the Korean peninsula means that we have given up war deterrence without paying the price. The fact that North Korea possesses nuclear weapons means that nuclear weapons will spread to Taiwan soon and China's nuclear weapons will be more highly developed. It is also a triggering device which can spread to Pakistan—which has already completed five to seven nuclear weapons with the help of North Korea—and ultimately to Japan.

[Kim Kuk-chin] The world is continuing to give up the arms race due to the end of the Cold War. At this point, we must fundamentally examine the significance of possessing nuclear weapons.

If East and West Germany had possessed nuclear weapons, it is very doubtful that they could have been reunified. Regardless of the various problems facing North Korea, it is thought that Kim Il-song is concentrating on developing nuclear weapons as a means to maintain his system. Therefore, the North's completion of its nuclear development can mean perpetual division.

Deterring North Korea's nuclear development can lead to a discussion of the reunification problem. To achieve this, we must watch the development of events in the future and resolutely carry out the "tripwire" policy that there can be no exchanges unless the nuclear issue is resolved.

North Korea is in the situation where accepting nuclear inspection is inevitable. The international community will not leave North Korea's "dangerous toy" as it is.

[Nam Chu-hong] As far as the nuclear issue is concerned, I don't think our government has a firm policy. If our own position on political and military strategy were in order, we would not have to be dragged around by the United States' intentions.

North Korea is using the 3D policy. That is, during the high-level talks, it is denying its nuclear capability; at the working-level negotiations, it is intent on delaying; and on site, it is trying to disguise its nuclear weapons. The reason it seems that we are caught up in its scheme is that we absolutely lack information.

There is a reserved support regarding nuclear sovereignty which we are insisting on. We are not in an era to stand alone, but that does not necessarily mean that the United States absolutely has a free hand in the matter.

The government must deal with nuclear negotiations and sufficiently work to make the people understand. Explaining our position in the international arena is also necessary in obtaining support from the international community.

[Pak Yong-kyu] In reality, ROK-U.S. relations are not one-to- one relations, as we hope them to be.

Also, the nuclear issue is not simply an issue between South and North Korea. We must consider the power relations of Northeast Asia and must be aware of the attention of the rest of the world.

The so-called "tripwire" policy is not only a result of U.S. persuasion. We should understand that the government's position was that the nuclear issue should be promoted considering the South and North, the power relations of Northeast Asia, and the rest of the world, but it shifted its policy to the "tripwire" policy due to changes in the situation.

I believe that ultimately North Korea will yield and accept nuclear inspection. North Korea cannot avoid international political pressure; to overcome its difficult economic situation, it cannot insist on maintaining its current situation. For North Korea to allow nuclear inspection means military opening, social and psychological opening, even its political opening.

No Calls for Fair Competition in DLP Race

SK0704113292 Seoul YONHAP in English 0736 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Seoul, April 7 (YONHAP)—President No Tae-u called on his ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) members Tuesday to make every effort to select a presidential candidate through fair competitions.

In a luncheon he gave to console DLP lawmaker aspirants who failed to win National Assembly seats in the March 24 general elections, No said the significance of free intra-party competitions would be stained if the people came to see them as an internal war for power or if the competitions resulted in damages to all contestees.

"If we get over the impact of the general elections and conduct the national convention successfully on May 19, the people will gladly choose us in the upcoming presidential elections," the chief executive said.

The May 19 convention would be the first forum to select a ruling party presidential candidate through open competitions and therefore it would draw the keenest attention from in and outside the country, he said.

The luncheon at Chongwadae, No's office-residence, was attended by 123 people including key post-holders such as Executive Chairman Kim Yong-sam, the No. 1 presidential contender, and Co-chairman Pak Tae-chun, who is also expected to join in the race.

As for the March 24 general elections in which the DLP failed to win the majority of the National Assembly seats, No said, "People say we were defeated in the elections, but we should remember that we earned the highest rate of votes a ruling party had ever won since the ninth elections. The result was viewed as a defeat, because expectations ran too high after the local council elections."

* Series on Labor-Management Relations Problems

922C0113A Seoul MAEIL KYONGJE SINMUN in Korean 13, 14, 15 Feb 92

[Series of articles by reporter Hwang In-tae: "Three Pending Issues Involving Labor-Management Relations"]

[13 Feb 92 p 3]

[Text]**Problems Related to Labor Laws**

Following President No Tae-u's orders issued during the 12 February meeting of labor, management, and government representatives to make a wholesale revision of the labor-related laws, the Labor Ministry has begun making preparations to make this vision.

As a result, revising labor laws has emerged once again as a pending issue after an earlier attempt to revise these laws was aborted due to strong opposition from labor.

In this connection, Labor Minister Choe Pyong-yol said: "A study committee for revising the labor laws—consisting of representatives of labor and management, the government, and public corporations—will be organized at an early date to immediately begin a wholesale review of the labor-related laws."

Minister Choe added: "Inasmuch as the respective labor, management, and government positions are already fully known, I do not think it will take much time to prepare draft amendments," indicating that the revision will be completed during President No's term in office.

President No ordered the revision of labor laws during the latest tripartite meeting of labor, management, and government representatives because he believed that institutional renovations are a prerequisite to durable industrial peace.

In particular, this belief is interpreted as a reflection of the president's intention to take personal charge of revising the labor laws, in view of the fact that the earlier attempt was aborted due to opposition from interest groups and due to the political community's passivity despite public support for revision to tide over economic difficulties.

Last year, when labor laws were being revised, the interested parties, namely, labor and management, were excluded from the revision work, thereby encountering strong opposition from labor. This experience points to the need for discussing the issue of labor law revision in public.

For this reason, it is expected that in revising the labor laws this time, all points at issue will be discussed publicly with the participation of labor, management, and government.

In this connection, Minister Choe asserted that "all points at issue relative to the revision of the labor laws raised by various circles, such as the Federation of Korea Trade Unions (FKTU), the Korea Employers' Federation (KEF), the academic community, the press, and dissident labor movements will be the subject of discussion."

Thus, labor laws are likely to undergo a wholesale revision, with the revision issue expected to be discussed in two separate categories, namely, with regard to problems involving workers as individuals, and with regard to collective labor-management relations.

The legal provisions concerning working conditions deal with labor relations involving individual workers; and in this category, provisions dealing with the hourly-wage system, the total wage system, and the annual/monthly leave system have become the subject of controversy.

By and large, businesses and the government have been stressing the need for revising these provisions in order to cope with the change in the economic conditions and join the ranks of the industrialized nations.

On the other hand, the demands for revising legal provisions dealing with collective labor-management relations, made chiefly by the unions, call for union participation in management, for permitting more than one union in an enterprise, for converting existing unions into the industrial federation type, and for the elimination of the provision banning intervention by a third party.

In this connection, the president has raised a new issue when he said, "the groundwork must be laid to provide the union with a role and function as the responsible engine of national management."

The government interprets this statement of the president's as an instruction to back up union participation in management with legal means.

Nevertheless, the call for union participation in management is understood to mean one for disclosing management-related information to the union, not for union participation in decision making.

On the contrary, assuming that it is impossible for the union to become the main engine of national management without labor-management joint participation in decision making, the FKTU is expected to strongly demand a legal provision providing for union participation in management.

This is bound to stir up a hot debate among labor, management, and government over the participation issue in the forthcoming revision of labor laws.

Another issue in the forthcoming labor law revision will concern the problem of allowing more than one union in one enterprise. In 1989, when the government party was in the minority, the National Assembly passed a bill allowing two or more unions in a factory as long as they are represented by high-level union organizations, but the bill was vetoed by the president.

The plural labor representation issue is going to emerge once again as the subject of controversy in the wake of the ROK admission to the International Labor Organization (ILO), however, as dissident labor movement groups plan to file a lawsuit against the government with the ILO arguing that the provision banning plural representation constitutes a typical violation of the workers' right to act collectively.

Reportedly, the government has been studying this issue among its inner circles since last year.

Allowing a plurality of unions in one enterprise is bound to shake the single union representation system centering on the FKTU at its foundation, and the FKTU is strongly against plural representation. Accordingly, the discussion of this issue is likely to cause rough sailing.

Arguing that if more than one union is allowed in one enterprise, the industrial society will be thrown into utter confusion on account of the competition between rival unions to distinguish themselves from each other, the FKTU stresses that its demand for banning plural union representation is not prompted by any desire to preserve its own vested interests.

The management side, on the other hand, demands that problems relating to the consolidation of labor standards, such as that involving annual/monthly leave, be included in the issues that need be to be addressed in the forthcoming revision of labor laws.

As pointed out by KEF Chairman Yi Tong-chan during the 12 February meeting, the business side maintains that the annual/monthly leave system, introduced as a means for compensating for low wages, has lost its validity in the era of high wages.

Pointing out that people temporarily laid off get more pay than working employees because of the legal provision providing for 70 percent of the average wage as payment for temporary lay-off, companies demand that the lay-off pay be reduced to the original 60 percent level.

As in the past, in the forthcoming labor law revision, the government will try to enact a piece of legislation that will provide for the total wage system and the hourly-pay employment system.

The government believes that the total wage system must be introduced without fail with a view to stabilizing wages and simplifying the wage system.

The government has a strong intention to introduce the hourly work system on the grounds that it will help ease the manpower shortage and give an added elasticity to the labor market.

In the forthcoming revision of the labor laws, all the items which labor, management, and government strove to revise in the past will be discussed.

Nevertheless, to prevent the effort from becoming a three-way contest to protect the respective vested interests among labor, management, and government, it is necessary to organize a study committee which will ensure fairness so that the laws may be revised in such a way that the revision will contribute to the labor movement and economic development by reflecting the actual conditions of the labor sector.

Points at Issue Related to Labor Laws Revision Issues involving workers as individuals:

—introduction of the hourly wage system
—legislation of the total wage system
—reduction of yearly/monthly leave
—70-percent decrease in temporary lay-off pay
—introduction of a variant work system

Issues involving labor-management relations collectively: —union participation in management
—allowing more than one union in one enterprise
—consolidation of an industrial labor federation system
—elimination of the provision banning intervention by a third party
—permitting unions' political activity
—stoppage of wage payment to union officials performing nothing but union work

[14 Feb 92 p 3]

[Text]**Conflicting Views on Total Wage System**

Since the 29 June 1987 declaration was issued, our country has topped the whole world in terms of wage increases due to the invigoration of the labor movement.

The high rate of increase has had the side effects of rising prices and diminishing international competitiveness, thereby failing to bring about real improvement in workers' standards of living.

This has raised the fear that any further wage increase would lead to a situation which would render it impossible to recover from a recession, and some frea that means other than wage increases should be used to promote the well-being of workers.

Peaking in 1989 at 21.1 percent, the rate of wage increases has decreased since then, with 18.8 percent in 1990 and 17.2 percent in 1992. Still, the rate is very high, remaining in the neighborhood of 20 percent.

The wage level in our country is now the highest among the newly industrializing economies (NIEC's) of Asia, and in some sectors, it approaches the levels in the

United States and Japan, where the income levels are five times as high as that of our country.

With the process of wage setting dominated by "the logic of power play" in the past five years, the wages rose sharply particularly in enterprises with powerful trade unions and in monopoly and oligopoly firms which were able to pass the rising cost resulting from the wage increases onto their small and medium-scale subcontractors.

These enterprises—mostly major export firms including big corporations in the private-sector, public enterprises, and some service sectors—have dealt a mortal blow to our international competitiveness.

In enterprises with 500 or more employees at 100, the average wage level in small businesses (10 to 29 employees) dropped to 70 in 1990 from 90 in 1986, the year before the 29 June declaration was issued.

The wage increases in 1987 and ensuing years, which were out of accord with economic rationality, externally resulted in a weakened international competitiveness and accumulated red ink in the international payment account, and, internally aggravated price instability, sapped vitality in the manufacturing sector, and aggravated the manpower shortage in small and medium businesses while creating a sense of discord among workers of different strata.

Despite these socioeconomic problems caused by the rising prices, workers' standards of living have not improved, contrary to expectations.

According to a poll conducted by the FKTU among its members late last year, only 12.4 percent said their standard of living improved thanks to the wage increases. On the contrary, 21.7 percent said their standard of living deteriorated, and this percentage is more than double the percentage who said their living standards improved.

Despite the aforementioned problems caused by wage increases, government and businesses have failed to come up with appropriate wage policies to deal with them.

Voluntary wage determination by labor and management bordering on laissez-faire dominated in the period from 1987 through 1990; and although the government has pursued a wage stability policy characterized by a "one-digit increase" since 1990, it has failed to achieve wage stability.

Business for its part has been lacking in wage management efforts, failing to introduce measures, such as performance appraisals to determine wages in a rational manner. Corporations tried hard to avoid the government's wage guideline so that they might accept the union's demands.

The essence of the total wage system is that under this system the rate of wage increases in those big companies and financial and service firms which pay 1 million won or more in wages [per person] will be kept within a 5 percent limit, leaving the rate of increase in small and medium enterprises to the discretion of labor and management.

The proponent of this system maintains that it can curb the rising trend of wages in major exporting firms, which has become an issue, while allowing small and medium-size businesses leeway to raise wages, thereby making it possible to narrow the wage gap between different scales of business and to raise wages for workers and recover our international competitiveness at the same time.

They also expect that under this system enterprises will conduct wage negotiations on the basis of total wages, which will prevent any expedient wage increase, such as setting up a new allowance, a point at issue in the past.

The government has imposed forceful controls over wages with the total wage system as a weapon, and business is bracing for wage negotiations with fresh determination, departing from past practices.

Labor has not given up its objection to the total wage system, but the general atmosphere is that except for some of the dissident labor movements, labor recognizes the necessity of wage stability.

The FKTU has demanded a 15 percent wage increase (11 percent of the total wages) for this year, far below the 27 percent increase in the cost of living, according to its own calculation. This represents the changed perception on the part of labor.

The fact that the FKTU has exercised self-restraint in making its demand for wage hikes this year, in a departure from its past practice of demanding much higher wage increases, may be regarded as a major strategic change in the labor movement.

With regard to this change, some labor-relations experts suggest that: "To consolidate this change in perception on the labor side, opportunities of dialogue among labor, management, and government be increased, and efforts be made to strive ultimately for a societal consensus to improve the well-being of workers, including resolving the problem of wages."

They maintain that the government should improve the macroeconomic rationality of its wage policy by concentrating on price stability, and that wage negotiations should be made more productive, with labor, management, and government cooperating for the purpose of increasing the size of the pie and making a fair distribution of it.

In this regard, Yi Won-tok, assistant director of the Korea Labor Research Institute [KLRI], said that a "national committee on competitiveness" should be established directly under the president so that our nation's energy may be fully focused on in order to solve wage problems in a rational manner and launch a productivity movement.

Table 1. Per Capita National Income and Hourly Wages in Asian NIES (Productive Jobs in Manufacturing Sector)

	1986		1990	
	Per Capita GNP	Hourly Wage	Per Capita GNP	Hourly Wage
Korea	2,505	1.45	5,569	4.16
Taiwan	3,993	1.73	7,997	3.98
Hong Kong	6,968	1.88	12,087	3.20
Singapore	7,022	2.23	12,862	3.78

[No indication of the currency and unit]

[15 Feb 92 p 3]

[Text] **Labor Productivity—Comparison With Other Countries**

Since 29 June 1987, the competitiveness of our economy has continued to deteriorate because labor productivity has been unable to catch up with the rate of increased wages.

To cope with the newly encountered problems since the announcement of the 29 June declaration, namely the problems of the diminishing desire to work and shrinking productivity, various campaigns have been under way, including the five-additions drive and the drive to put in extra 30 minutes of work. Labor's response, however, has been cool.

As a result, the foundation of our economy is becoming weaker and weaker, raising the fear that the goal of joining the ranks of industrialized nations in the nineties might be frustrated at the threshold.

The rate of increase in labor productivity in the past five years since the announcement of the 29 June declaration has remained at the same level as that of the first half of 1980.

The rate of increase in labor productivity for value added products as calculated by the KLRI on the basis of available data, dropped to 4.1 percent in the 1987-91 period from 7.1 percent in the 1980-86 period in terms of the constant currency.

On the contrary, the rate of increase in labor productivity in our competitors, such as the United States, Japan, and Taiwan, has recently turned upward or has not changed much, indicating that our economic strength is rapidly eroding compared with that of our competitors.

The United States has maintained a labor productivity growth rate of 2 to 3 percent on an average, and Japan an average of 5 to 6 percent. Taiwan, on the other hand, had a labor productivity growth rate of 7 percent on average in 1987, approximately on a par with that our country; but in 1987 and thereafter the rate has risen to the 9 percent level in contrast with what was happening in our country.

The diminishing tendency in labor productivity in our country has a marked difference when compared with our competitors, not only in terms of rates of increase but also in absolute levels of productivity.

(In 1990) the percentage of rejects was 5.8 percent in our country, whereas it was 1.5 percent in Japan and 2.5 percent in Taiwan.

In our country the value added per product is only 28.9 percent of that in Japan in the manufacture of cars and 34.8 percent of that in Japan in electronic products.

On the contrary, the labor cost per car manufactured in our country is 128.7 percent of that in Japan. This indicates that we need to quadruple our labor productivity in order to compete with Japan.

As you see, the rate of increase in productivity is slowing down in our country, and our labor productivity is far behind that of our competitors in absolute terms. Production in our country has been decreasing in quantitative terms and qualitative terms. As a result, we are rapidly losing our international competitive edge.

Despite this reality, we have been unable to produce a consensus as to what has been causing the diminishing desire to work and declining labor productivity.

Businessmen maintain that the loss of working ethics on the part of the workers is a side effect of the revitalized labor movement.

In their opinion, the workers' sense of responsibility did not improve in proportion to the acute awareness of their interests, with the lowly people's mentality of getting a higher pay by hook or by crook permeating the whole society. This is the primary cause of the diminishing productivity.

Entrepreneurs stress that the phenomenon of avoiding overtime work and toilsome and dirty jobs among the workers, frequent job changes, and a lack of the artisan spirit—this pervasive lack of work ethics is responsible for the decline in labor productivity.

They also point out that despite the invigorated labor movement, unions are unable to adequately maintain discipline in workshops due to the lack of leadership.

In the days of authoritarian rule, management maintained order in workshops by coercive means. With these behind us, trade unions should play the proxy role to maintain workshop order, but they are not up to it because they lack leadership.

A staff member of Lucky-Goldstar's Kuro audio factory had this to say: "The workers should uncover faulty products right on the spot during the process of manufacture, but on many occasions they neglect to do so." He pointed out that because of this neglect, much time is spent correcting errors only after the production is completed, and this leads to low productivity.

On the other hand, the union side blames the paucity of investments in technical development.

According to the union side, companies have lost the opportunity for a technological leap forward because they were absorbed in financial games, such as speculation in real estate and securities, instead of investing in technological development from the money they had made during the 1986-88 boom triggered by the three lows.

The union side claims that as a result—when we were at the threshold of shifting to an advanced technological level from the relatively easy medium-level of technology—a barrier was raised as industrialized nations began to apply trade pressures and became chary of technology transfers.

The union side also maintains that the lessened desire to work has been caused, not by the workers' "loathing to work," but by the socioeconomic tendency of widespread speculation and of gaining unearned profits, which makes workers feel that they are not duly rewarded for their efforts.

In this regard, Yi Chong-sik, a FKTU research member, said that "in a surveys conducted by our union members themselves, due to the hikes in commodity and housing prices only 12.7 percent said that their standard of living has improved despite the sharp increase in wages." "This frustration on the part of the workers," he added, "has blunted the desire to work."

According to KLRI, it is true that the diminution in the desire to work appeared after the announcement of the 26 June declaration, but the inadequacy in investments in technologies on the part of business is to blame for having made this diminished desire result in lowered productivity.

The KLRI proposed as an alternative that with a view to stirring up the desire to work, companies rationalize personnel and labor management, such as wage payments, and at the same, furnish information on business operations to their trade unions so that the workers may become more interested in participating in business operations.

The KLRI predicts that only when technological barriers are removed through increased corporate investments in technologies will it be possible to improve labor productivity.

Table 2. Comparison of Productivity and Wages in ROK and Japanese Auto Industries

	Korea (A)	Japan (B)	A/B (%)
Number of cars produced per person	14.7	48.8	30.1
Value added per person in millions of won	21.1	72.8	28.9
Net profit per person in millions of won	0.6	12.0	5.0
Labor cost per car (in dollars)	1,092	848	128.7

*Military Leaders' Close Ties to No Tae-u Viewed

922C0070A Seoul SIN TONG-A in Korean No 12, Dec 91 pp 238-255

[Article by reporter Kim Chae-hong: "9/9 Ties, Source of Real Power in the Military of the Sixth Republic"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] The military appears calm on the surface, but underneath it is not that serene.

Notable among the places where the weather vane on military issues can be observed are extra-military organizations frequented by many reserve generals, in addition to the "detached building" housing various support forces and detachments located inside the Defense Ministry compound. There are firmly established multi-layered interest groups which cannot be ignored as shapers of public opinion on military matters. [passage omitted]

If Hanahoe is an organization which was named and arbitrarily organized by its members, the 9/9 [refers to military units formerly commanded by No Tae-u] ties are the name coined by the extra-military public opinion groups when they discovered that high-ranking generals occupying key posts have common personal ties with President No.

9/9 Ties, Real Power in the Military

First, Army Chief of Staff Yi Chin-sam, the overall head of the Army, was President No's chief of staff when he was the commander of the 9th Airborne Regiment with the rank of brigadier general. Yi Chin-sam, member of the 15th graduating class of the Military Academy, was the front-runner among his Military Academy classmates in terms of promotions. It is generally believed, however, that under the Fifth Republic, he was barely promoted to the rank of lieutenant general from major general at the 11th hour because he was marked as a "No Tae-u associate." [passage omitted]

There are enough background factors which explain how Yi Chin-sam, a native of Puyo outside the Taegu-Kyongbuk (TK) area, emerged as a key figure among the No Tae-coterie surrounded by members of the TK group. He and President No worked together in the Security Command for quite a long period of time from the days when they were lieutenants. When President No became the commander of the 21st Regiment, the 8th Division, in 1972, Lt. Col. Yi Chin-sam was a battalion commander under him.

Since the inauguration of the Fifth Republic, Chong Ho-yong, Pak Hui-to, and Yi Chong-ku have successively "inherited" the post of Army chief of staff, arousing the public criticism that this "inheritance" from one TK member to the next was "going too far." It was thanks to his 9/9 ties that Yi Chin-sam was able to take over the baton as Army chief of staff in June 1990. [passage omitted]

The array of posts occupied by men with the 9/9 ties is luminous. Besides the highest commander of the Army, two of the three key military commanders with the rank of full general and the first vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff have the 9/9 ties. In addition, the commanders of the Security Command and the Capital Defense Command and the commanders of two divisions deployed near Seoul also have the 9/9 ties. In the past, the Security Command (now called kimu saryong in Korean) and the Capital Defense Command, whose commanders have the rank of lieutenant general, were charged with the important responsibility of keeping the whole military under control and defending the capital zone while playing their role as a "royal guard" for political power.

In addition, the director of the Presidential Security Service—the post which directly or indirectly had a say in military appointments in the past, and recently is known to be charged with the management role for general officers in the reserve list—and the director of personnel (with the rank of major general) reputed to be the flower of the Army Headquarters also have the 9/9 ties. From this one may see that it is not an exaggeration to say that people with the 9/9 ties are in control of military power.

Nevertheless, this is not to say that the 9/9 ties have emerged as an alternate force replacing Hanahoe. People with the 9/9 ties hold the key military posts as a "dominant force" under the circumstances in which many generals from Hanahoe are still at the center of the military.

Hanahoe is different from the 9/9 ties in that the former is an arbitrary secret organization centering specifically on the Yongnam area, whereas the latter represents natural personal ties forged by serving in the same military units, not by regional links. In other words, Hanahoe is called a closed, exclusionist, and factional organization designed to protect the special interests of its members rather than a group aimed at seeking jointly the common values and goals of professional soldiers. For this reason, it is possible to claim that people with the 9/9 ties are not an arbitrary organization or just another faction.

Yi Chin-sam, Nucleus of 9/9 Ties

We will examine other members of the military hierarchy with the 9/9 ties besides Army Chief of Staff Yi Chin-sam.

Four-star General Yi Pil-sop (16th Military Academy graduating class, native of Taejon, South Chungchong Province), who is commander of an unidentified Army in the rear, was a regimental commander when Maj. Gen. No Tae-u was the commander of the 9th Division. At present, other four-star generals among his Military Academy classmates are Sin Mal-yop (Pusan), currently commander of an unidentified field Army; and Song Yong-sop (South Chungchong Province), first vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. The three-star generals among his classmates are Yong Yong-il (Seoul), director of intelligence of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; Chon Yong-taek (South Cholla Province), director of strategic planning of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Yi Chung-hyong (South Cholla Province), first assistant minister of defense, also a member of the 16th graduating class, who is known as an expert on military intelligence, remains in his current post as a civilian since he was placed on the reserve list in January as part of Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku's campaign for promoting civilian control of the Defense Ministry.

Four-star General Yi Mun-sok (17th Military Academy graduating class), commanding general of an unidentified Army in the forward area, was President No's chief of staff in the early days of the president's tenure as commander of the 9th Division. [passage omitted]

There are two ways to promote Gen Yi Mun-sok to Army chief of staff. One is to appoint a member of the 16th graduating class of the Military Academy to the chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Gen Yi Mun-sok to Army chief of staff in the forthcoming December reshuffle. [passsge omitted]

The another way is to leave Army Chief of Staff Gen Yi Chin-sam in his current post and appoint a member of the 16th graduating class to the chairmanship of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and in the periodical reshuffle next June, appoint Gen Yi Mun-sok as successor to Gen Yi Chin-sam. [passage omitted]

9/9 Ties in 17th, 18th Academy Graduating Classes

General Yi Mun-sok is the only person with 9/9 ties in the 17th Military Academy graduating class. [passage omitted]

Another one with the 9/9 ties among the four-star generals is Song Ung-sop, who is the first vice chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and concurrently the ROK military representative at high-level North-South talks. Song was a regimental commander along with Col Yi Pil-son and Col Yi Tae-hui under 9th Division Commander No Tae-u. Two of the former three regimental commanders of the 9th Division are now four-star generals.

The remaining former regimental commander, Yi Tae-hui, currently director of the Manpower Administration, was a promising general as deputy chief of staff for personnel affairs, the Army Headquarters, when he was involved in the so-called "the Defense Committee incident" in 1986, in which high-ranking generals committed violence against members of the National Defense Committee of the National Assembly at a dinner party. For his involvement in this violence, he was relieved of his post. This incident, in which the generals struck the assemblymen with their fists in a drinking bout, even including the key ruling party National Defense Committee members, was symbolic of the power the generals were wielding under the Fifth Republic.

At the news of this incident, the public was shocked to know that the relative importance of the National Assembly members including heavyweight politicians on the one hand and generals on the other as conceived conventionally thereto had now reversed. Under the circumstances in which the relationship between the military and civilians had deteriorated to the extreme since the 18 May military coup, public opinion was seething over this incident. The government of the Fifth Republic had to take a disciplinary action against the generals involved in order to placate the public sentiment.

The military settled the issue by placing Chong Tong-ho, then vice chief of staff of Army, on the reserve list and taking disciplinary action against Yi Tae-hui and leaving the rest untouched. Army Commander Pak Hui-to, who avoided the disciplinary action at the time, later was able to rise to the post of chief of staff of the Army. If Yi Tae-hui had not been involved in this incident, there would have been ample possibility for him to become a four-star general side by side with his classmates—Ko Myong-sung, former commander of the Security Command; Na Chung-pae, former deputy commander, the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command; and Army Chief of Staff Yi Chin-sam. What is more, Yi Tae-hui was in a more advantages position because he was one of those few officers with both the TK background and the 9/9 ties.

Among the three-star generals holding key positions, Ku Chang-hoe, director of the Security Command, (18th graduating class, Chinju, South Kyongsang); and Kim Chin-son, commanding offer of the Capital Defense Command, (19th graduating class, Poryong, South Chungchong Province).

The 12 December incident occurred when Ku Chang-hoe replaced Yi Mun-sok as 9th Division Commander No Tae-u's chief of staff. Division Commander No was attending a meeting of a new group of general officers belonging to Hanahoe with Director of the Security Command Chon Tu-hwan at its center when No instructed his chief of staff, Col Ku Chang-hoe, over the telephone on 12 December at about midnight to "move one regiment into Seoul immediately."

The purpose of Division Commander No's instruction was to use the troops in a military move designed to arrest Army Chief of Staff Chong Sung-hwa, who was concurrently the Martial Law commander; Chang Tae-wan, commander of the Capital Garrison Command; and Chong Pyong-in, commander of the Ranger Command.

Troops of the forward units deployed to guard the front line could easily be sent to the capital zone because the Security Command, whose duty it was to watch out for any abnormal military moves and prevent a coup, was the command center for the coup d'etat. Col Yi Pil-sop was the regimental commander to whom the 9th Division's Chief of Staff, Ku Chang-hoe, transmitted the division commander's order to dispatch the troops.

Security Commander in Power Structure

Ku Chang-hoe replaced Lt Gen Cho Nam-pung as commander of the Security Command last October when the latter resigned taking the responsibility for the public ire stirred by the case of Private Yun Sok-yang, who exposed the surveillance of civilians by the Security Command. Lt Gen Cho Nam-pung (native of Pusan, 18th graduating class) is currently the education commander. Ku Chang-hoe has devoted himself to reform the Security Command by changing its Korean name from Poansa to Kimusa and reducing the scale of its local branches, including the Sobinggo detachment in Seoul which was a target of criticism for torture used in investigations. [passage omitted]

Concerning the reform of the Security Command, sources in the military circles point out that the opposition demand for lowering the rank of the security commander from lieutenant general to major general and for the reduction of the local branches in scale is nothing more than an argument for argument's sake because it stems from a lack of knowledge about the actual workings of power. Opposition politicians stress that because the power and tyranny of the Security Command originate in the system by which its commander makes intelligence reports to the president in face-to-face meetings, this system should be abolished or reduced drastically.

Under the current Armed Forces Organization Law, the Security Command as a unit under the direct control of the Defense Ministry is subject to the control and supervision of the defense minister. In reality, however, the Security Command is far closer to the center of power than the Defense Ministry, and actually, the former has behaved as such. This, the same sources say, is an outcome of the practice of erroneous exercise of power which has scrambled the line of command as prescribed by law.

This phenomenon is a natural consequence of our authoritarian system in which one derives power from his frequent contacts with the supreme ruler and from his activities carried out under orders of the supreme ruler. Accordingly, these sources say, in order that the Security Command's abuse of power, such as interference in political affairs and surveillance on civilians, may be prevented, the system of one-on-one meetings between the commander of the Security Command and the president should be done away with and the commander should report to the president through the defense minister on the activities of his command.

These military sources also say that another important point in the reform of the Security Command is how to control the Security Command's budget and its execution. They point out that if the National Assembly only superficially goes through the motion of examining the budget of the Security Command and its execution on the grounds that the Security Command is an intelligence organization and that military secrets need to be protected, it will be difficult to do away with the evil practices. In their opinion, the political leadership should set the right direction for reform inasmuch as it is hardly to be expected that the commander himself will undertake this kind of reform. [passage omitted]

The current corps commanders from the 18th graduating class are: in addition to Lt General Chang Sok-in (Seoul) in the capital zone, Lieutenant Generals Chang Song (Seoul), Pyon Chang-won (Taejon), Kim Chae-chang (Taegu), Kim Chong-hon (Taegu), and Chang Pyong-yong (Seoul). They account for more than half of all the corps commanders.

Other members of the 18th graduating class who hold the posts equivalent to lieutenant general in rank are Director of Intelligence Pae Tae-ung and Logistics Commander Pae Il-song. Prominent among the major generals from the same 18th class are Pan Sun-yol (Chinhae, South Kyongsang Province), director of personnel, the Ministry of Defense; An Chun-pu, director of the North Korea Intelligence Department, the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Hwang Won-tak (Kangwon Province), senior delegate to the Military Armistice Commission in Panmunjom.

Maj Gen Hwang Won-tak was a captain and the senior adjutant for Martial Law Commander Gen Chong Sung-hwa when the 12 December, 1979, incident occurred. He was not at the official resident of the Army chief of staff in Hannamdong when the fire fight broke out, but after Army Chief of Staff [concurrently Martial Law Commander] Gen Chong Sung-hwa was arrested, Hwang was relieved of his post and had to spend unhappy days for a while. Hwang used to enjoy the confidence of the people around him as a man with experience in field command, and Gen Louis C. Menetrey, commanding general of the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces, named Hwang as his staff officer because of his excellent English. Hwang was promoted to major general while serving in the ROK-U.S. Combined Forces Command and became its chief of staff.

But for Gen Menetrey's "protection," most probably Hwang would have had to leave active service. He was named as senior delegate to the Armistice Commission in July when that post was handed over to the ROK Armed Forces from the UN Command.

Powerful Among 17th Academy Class

Lt Gen Kim Chin-son (19th class, Poryong, South Chungchong Province) who is the commander of the Capital Corps, another influential post among the key military posts, also has the 9/9 ties. Kim Chin-son was the chief of the situation room of the Capital Corps when the 12 December incident occurred. When Gen No Tae-u became the commander of the Capital Corps soon after the 12 December incident, Kim Chin-son assisted Commander No as his chief of staff. Lt Gen Kim, known as the key figure of Hanahoe, is a cut above his old academy classmates in leadership capability and reputed to be a man of reasonable character.

Lt Gen Kim Chin-son draws attention as one of those generals who have been promoted to key posts by President No because of their deep-rooted ties with him. In case Commander Ku Chang-hoe of the Security Command is transferred to another post, Kim is regarded as a likely choice as Ku's successor. [passage omitted]

Among Capital Corps Commander Kim Chin-son's classmates of the 19th Academy graduating class, there are three front-line corp commanders. They are: Kim Sang-chun (Taegu), Yun Yong-nam (South Kyongsang Province), and Yi Taek-hyong. Lt Gen So Wan-su (Taegu)—who holds a key post as the commander of the Ranger Command, has no known ties with President No, but is a TK member and a key figure of Hanahoe—is also a member of the 19th class.

The layer of the members of the 19th class who hold positions equivalent to major general in rank is thick. They are: in the Defense Ministry, Yang Sang-tae, director of troop information and education; Om Sop-il (North Kyongsang Province), director of mobilization; Yi Hae-chong (Ulsan, South Kyongsang Province), director of installations; An Pyong-kil, project coordination officer. In the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Director of Strategic Development Choe Kwon-yong; Chief of Operations Pak Kwang-yong (Chongju, North Chungchong Province); Director of Logistic Support Son Pyong-ik; Choe Chun-sik (Taegu), director of civil affairs and psychological warfare. There is also Yi Chun-ki (Masan, South Kyongsang Province), plans management officer, in the Army Headquarters.

The list of the officers with the 9/9 ties among the members of the 20th graduating class of the Military Academy includes Maj Gen An Pyong-ho, chief of personnel, the Army Headquarters. He was the chief of operations of the 9th Division under Division Commander No Tae-u. He is one of the "meritorious retainers" who moved a regimental force into Seoul jointly with Regimental Commander Yi Pil-sop and Chief of Staff Ku Chang-hoe under the orders of Division Commander No during the 12 December incident. In the staff of the Army Headquarters under Chief of Staff Yi Chin-sam, Maj Gen An is reputed to be practically the only outspoken person. The post of the chief of staff for personnel affairs is the gateway for the holder of this post to get promoted to corps commander unless he has committed any serious mistake. [passage omitted]

The following are Major General An's classmates of the 20th graduating class: in the Army Headquarters, Yi Hyon-pu (Seoul), director of operations, and Ham Tok-son (South Chungchong Province), director of logistics; in the Defense Ministry, Cho Song-tae (South Chungchong Province), policy planning officer, who is playing the role of a right- hand man to Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku on the strength of his ties with the minister; and Kim Chong-pae (Taegu), strategic planning officer. Cho Song-nae was Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku's staff officer when the latter was a regimental commander. In addition, Yi Chae-tal, director of operations planning, the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; To il-kyu (Kyonggi Province), deputy chief of staff, the ROK- U.S. Combined Forces Command, are included. [passage omitted]

There are no officers with the 9/9 ties among the members of the 21st graduating class. [passage omitted]

There are two general officers with the 9/9 ties among the members of the 22d graduating class. They are Maj Gen Choe Ki-hong (Taegu), who was the senior secretary to Gen No Tae-u when the latter became the commander of the Capital Garrison Corps shortly after the 12 December incident; and Maj Gen Chang Song-tuk, who was the commander of the headquarters company when Gen No Tae-u was the commanding officer of the Security Command. They also include: Major Generals Yu Hyo-il (Seoul) (Seoul) and Yu Hoe-ku (North Kyongsang Province)—both of whom are division commanders—and Brig Gen Ye Sang-o, organization management officer at the Defense Ministry.

There are no known officers with the 9/9 ties among the members of the 23d graduating class. Even if some of them may have had a military career tie with President No, they must have been below majors in rank and the president may hardly remember them. Yi Pu-sik (Andong, North Kyongsang Province), assistant to the defense minister for military affairs; Chon Kwan (Seoul), deputy director of strategic planning, the Office of the Joint Chiefs of Staff; and Kim Myong-se (Chonju, North Cholla Province), senior secretary to the Army chief of staff, were promoted to the rank of brigadier general ahead of the rest of the 23d class. They are maturing professionally with the goal of becoming the next-generation military leaders.

Problems Involving Military Appointments Bared

An analysis of the appointments of generals to key posts in the military, the Defense Ministry, and the Army Headquarters reveals several characteristics.

First, the ties with the president and the defense minister constitute the most important determinant in the appointments to the key posts. A good example is the fact that general officers with the 9/9 ties, that is, the generals who once worked together in the same units with the president, almost completely monopolize the military leadership posts and other key posts in the military.

The saying that "you can get ahead only when you have pull" is valid literally. Opposition members of the National Defense Committee of the National Assembly are trying to make an issue of this bias. They maintain that this saying proves that the placement and promotion of generals, who are professional solders, have not been carried out in an objective and fair manner. [passage omitted]

The criticism is also emerging that placing of the president's faithful retainers in key posts is an action jeopardizing the political neutrality of the military because the president should lead the military by appraising the abilities of the generals according to the pertinent laws, regulations, and systems. Critics point out that if high-ranking generals are appointed in the same manner as cabinet members are selected or candidates for the National Assembly election are nominated in the political world, it is bound to seriously impair the neutrality of the military and the system of professional soldiers.

The second characteristic of the current military leadership is that most of the key posts are monopolized by Military Academy graduates. There is the voice demanding that, granted that Military Academy graduates who started out with different qualities and a different mental attitude as military cadets, are superior to other groups, ROTC graduates and other non-Academy graduates should be assured of equal opportunities.

Speaking of ROTC graduates, nearly 4,000 officers are sent out annually from various universities throughout the country, and the total of ROTC graduates exceeds 100,000 now. Of this total, career officers with many years of service number more than 1,500. From a military strategic point of view, ROTC graduates play a significant role.

There are altogether 24 general officers with the ROTC background including: Army Corps Commander Lt Gen Pak Se-hwan (Koryo University); Maj Gen Kim Pong-chan (Yonsei University), director of intelligence, the Army Headquarters; and the commanders of two divisions deployed in the outlying areas of the capital zone, namely, Maj Gen Yang Sung-kwon (2d ROTC graduating class, Kyonghui University) and Maj Gen So Kyong-sok (3d class, Koryo University).

The third characteristic is that high-ranking generals come from certain specific regions. There were four major regional military ties, including Yongnam, Honam, Chungchong, and North Korea, in the days of the Liberal Party and Republican Party governments, and with the passage of time these ties narrowed down to one specific region, which has come to monopolize high-ranking generals. This phenomenon may have stemmed from the fact that personnel actions involving high-ranking generals have been influenced by one's personal ties with the president.

Some refute this by saying that it is quite natural that the Yongnam area which has produced a large number of officers should have a larger share of high-ranking generals. Nevertheless, attention should be paid to the analytic view that there is even a rising trend of demand stimulating supply not only because more and more young people in areas with a higher rate of success for professional soldiers want to become officers but also because the influential people in the military are drawing young people from their native towns into the military service.

The fourth characteristic is that the Defense Ministry and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, which adopt policies for and exercise control over all of the Army, Navy, and air force, are staffed predominantly with Army officers. Most of the so-called powerful positions are occupied by Army generals. Critics say that this gives rise to doubts as to whether three-dimensional strategies and tactics for ground, sea, and air support can be developed properly.

Regarding this question, the Army responds by saying that the preponderance of the Army is quite natural in view of the manpower structure of our Armed Forces. Of the 600,000 standing Army, the Navy personnel total

60,000 including marines, and the air force personnel are below that level. Viewed from this manpower structure of the armed forces, the ratio of responsible posts in the Defense Ministry and Joint Chief of Staff occupied by the Army, Navy, and Air Force is anything but unusual.

Announcing a plan for improvement of the military service system in early September, Defense Minister Yi Chong-ku disclosed that the ratio of the Navy and air force in the manpower structure of the standing Army will be increased. Leading officials of the Navy and the air force, however, are of the opinion that in the case of the Navy and the air force, a certain relative weight should be given each of these two branches in consideration of their strategic roles rather than their arithmetic ratio in the manpower composition. They say that the Defense Ministry is a club of Army generals rather than the command center for the three military branches and even sarcastically call it "yukbangbu," or the ministry of Army defense, not national defense.

When the Defense Ministry began to push for the "818 plan" for armed forces reorganization designed to concentrate command authorities on the Joint Chiefs of Staff last year, the Navy and air force opposed it on the grounds that "the Army will come to control the Joint Chiefs of Staff by its sheer numerical strength, thereby undermining the professionalism and autonomy of the Navy and air force." There is a loud voice demanding that inasmuch as everybody recognizes the importance of high-tech armament and the role of the Navy and the air force as technology-oriented forces in modern warfare and in the war potential of a unified Korea in the future, more Navy and air force personnel should be brought in as responsible officers in the Defense Ministry and the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

People in and out of the military are of the opinion that from now on appointments to the military leadership posts and promotion of general officers should be made with a view to resolving the issues cited above. [passage omitted]

President No's Last, Most Sweeping' Personnel Action

[Passage omitted] Each year there are two periodic reshuffles involving general officers, in June and December each. [passage omitted]

Four years ago, in December 1987, two months before the expiration of his term of office, then President Chon Tu-hwan placed his lineal underlings and men of real power in the Fifth Republic in the key military posts, and he came under fire immediately. At that time, Chon Tu-hwan appointed Choe Se-chang to the post of chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Ko Myong-sung to the post of commander of the three branches of the Armed Forces, and Choe Pyong-uk to the post of commander of the Security Command, leaving Pak Hui-to as Army chief of staff with his term remaining for another year. There was loud criticism against this reshuffle because it was taken as an attempt on the part of the retiring president to maintain his influence over the military even after his retirement.

In the June reshuffle following his inauguration in February 1988, President No replaced Pak Hui-to by four-star Gen Yi Chong-ku (currently the minister of defense) as Army chief of staff 6 months before Pak's term of office was due to expire. In the December reshuffle, under pressure of the National Assembly hearings on the irregularities of the Fifth Republic, the president quickly replaced Commander of the Security Command Choe Pyong-uk by Maj Gen Cho Nam-pung. A month after the replacement of the Army chief of staff, 80 high-ranking generals were reshuffled and promoted. In this way the military leadership of the new Sixth Republic set sail.

In this military leadership reshuffle, President No reportedly got involved only in the reshuffle of officers with the rank of lieutenant general and above, leaving Army Chief of Staff Yi Chong-ku to handle the rest. Nevertheless, a large number of officers with the 9/9 ties were selected for key posts in that reshuffle. To be more specific, Yi Chin-sam was appointed to the post of Army chief staff, Yi mun-sok to the post of commander of the Ranger Command, Ku Chang-hui to the post of director of personnel, the Army Headquarters, and major generals with the 9/9 ties to the post of division commander charged with the defense of the capital zone.

Army Chief of Staff Has More Clout Than Defense Minister

In his inaugural address, Army Chief of Staff Yi Chong-ku said, "the military will attach importance to the processes and goals agreed upon by the citizenry and strive to back them up," adding that "the military should establish its intrinsic standing so that it can play a leading role for the state and nation in achieving national reunification and prosperity." From this statement, the public got the impression that the military was undergoing shift in generation.

In those days the four-party system of the DJP, the PPD, and RDP, the NDRP was at work, and there was a strong pressure for the cleaning up of the irregularities of the Fifth Republic and for reform, with the government party in the minority in the National Assembly. As a consequence, the military, too, began to get ready to rectify its past irrational and undemocratic behavior pattern.

What was put in place at that juncture was the "plan for the readjustment of the scope of the presidential power in dealing with the promotion and appointment of military generals." The plan provides that the president directly exercise his right of personnel management for officers with the rank of three-star general and above, letting defense minister handle personnel affairs involving officers with the rank of two-star general and below and requiring him to report to the president on his decision. The plan sought to drastically revamp the old way of handling personnel affairs involving general officers by establishing a system of requiring the president to choose each appointee from a plural number of candidates recommended by the defense minister in appointing high-ranking military officers and key unit commanders.

It is doubtful whether the underlying spirit of this readjustment plan has been observed to a significant degree in the actual handling of personnel affairs, however. [passage omitted]

The Military Personnel Law, a more basic statute than this readjustment plan, provides that in the "appointment of officers," in the "promotion of officers," and in the "appointments of key unit commanders," "the president will... in accordance with the nomination made by the defense minister based upon the recommendation of the chief of staff of each branch of the service." As for the appointment of officers with the rank of full colonel and below, the defense minister is authorized to exercise his right of personnel management.

In practice, however, the "preferences" of the supreme ruler rather than these provisions weighed supreme, rendering the intermediate process meaningless. The defense minister' right of nomination in particular has been reduced to waste paper just as the prime minister's right of nomination in the appointment of cabinet members has. In practice, a recommendation by the chief of staff of each branch of the service carries more weight than that of the defense minister. Oftentimes the Army chief of staff is promoted to minister of defense. But, one and the same person who joins the cabinet as defense minister after serving as the Army chief of staff must have enjoyed more power when he was Army chief of staff, a position lower than that of defense minister, than he now enjoys as defense minister. For instance, in the selection of division or corps commanders, the defense minister exercises practically no influence, and it is customary for the Army chief of staff to recommend the candidates to the president. [passage omitted]

Burma

Rohingya Leader Demands Citizenship Guarantees

BK0504041592 Hong Kong AFP in English 0241 GMT 5 Apr 92

[By Nadeen Qadir]

[Text] Dhaka, April 5 (AFP)—The leader of Burmese Moslem refugees sheltering in Bangladesh has expressed doubts about prospects for a U.N. settlement and said his people will return only if the Rangoon government guarantees their citizenship.

"In 1974 and in 1978 our people went back under a similar situation with United Nations help, but our fate did not change and I am pessimistic about the chances of success for the world body," Mohammad Yunus, president of the dissident Rohingya Solidarity Organisation (RSO) told AFP.

U.N. Undersecretary General Jan Eliasson held talks with Bangladeshi and Burmese officials this week in an effort to find a solution to the problem of 200,000 Rohingya Moslems who fled Burma's Arakan Province, accusing the Rangoon government of atrocities against them.

The United Nations is ready to act as a catalyst in finding a negotiated settlement to the problem, but any solution would be based on the "safe, dignified and voluntary" return of the refugees, Eliasson said Thursday in Dhaka before heading to Rangoon.

But Yunus said any solution was likely to be considered "forced" repatriation and would bring only "brief credit" to the Burmese and Bangladeshi Governments.

The Rohingya leader reiterated his calls for a solution involving his organisation and guarantees of citizenship as well as protection of civil and political rights for Burmese Moslems.

Without a guarantee of citizenship, any settlement would be futile because the refugees would not return to face further persecution, Yunus said.

The Burmese military junta has denied Rohingya accusations of atrocities, saying that its troops are carrying out anti-insurgency actions in Arakan and that the Moslems are illegal immigrants.

Yunus dismissed an acknowledgement last week by Rangoon that some 37,000 Rohingyas were Burmese nationals, saying the move was only a ploy in the face of widespread international pressure on Burma.

He said repeated atrocities by Burmese forces had broken the "economic backbone" of his people, adding that they "also want compensation as well as the return of property given to Buddhists."

Asked if his organisation would give up its insurgency in Burma if the Rohingyas were granted citizenship, Yunus said: "We have to see the situation and then decide."

Refugees told journalists last month they would rather die in the 12 refugee camps in Bangladesh than go back to face further persecution.

But Bangladeshi Prime Minister Khaleda Zia has categorically said that a way to repatriate the refugees must be found before the monsoon rains start later this month.

Dhaka remains hopeful of a settlement, according to officials who said the government was pursuing the issue through bilateral means and through the United Nations.

The prestigious Bangladeshi weekly Holiday said in its current issue that expectations of an early solution raised by Eliasson's visit would be "unrealistic" as "the United Nations is a slow-moving system."

Yunus appealed to all countries trading with Burma, especially China, to impose an arms embargo on Rangoon because the military junta imported weapons to suppress democracy.

Thailand and China are Burma's major trading partners, with Beijing the main source of weapons that the junta has used to fight various ethnic insurgencies across the country.

Soldiers' Destruction of Poppy Fields Reported

BK0704115692 Rangoon Radio Burma in Burmese 1330 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] The Defense Service personnel in cooperation with local people have been performing narcotic drug suppression activities as a national duty, and were able to destroy secretly cultivated poppy fields in the northeastern and eastern military command regions in March.

In the Northeastern Military Command region, Defense Service columns, while engaged in the mopping up operations against the SUA [Shan United Army] terrorist insurgents, discovered and destroyed 818 acres of secretly cultivated poppy fields in Mong Ma, Mong Hong, Mong Yu, Lanka, Lanaing, Mong Taw regions in Mong Yai township; and Nong Lein, Ta Pa, Ta Wu, Mong Gaung regions, Yaysi valley, and the valley near Mong Han village in Tangyang township of Shan State. They also destroyed 62.7 acres of poppy fileds in U Myar region in Nam Khan township and the western Lan Parka region in Muse township, and another 0.25 acre of cultivated poppy fields near Namhan village in Namtu township. A total of 880.75 acres of poppy fields were destroyed in the Northeastern Military Command region.

Similarly, Defense Service columns in the Eastern Military Command region also destroyed 7.14 acres of cultivated poppy fileds discovered along the Lwayponsit hilly region in Hsi-Hseng township.

Thus, in March, Defense Service columns destroyed a total of 888.09 acres of poppy fields.

Brunei, Malaysia & Singapore

Brunei

Concern Expressed Over Plight of Rohingya Muslims

BK0404131692 Kuala Belait THE BORNEO BULLETIN in English 14 Mar 92 p 1

[Text] Brunei views with concern the plight of the Rohingya Muslims who have fled from Myanmar [Burma] into Bangladesh, Radio Television Brunei reported last night. "The situation could develop into one which could create instability in South and Southeast Asia. At the same time, it invokes great humanitarian consideration," it added.

Malaysia

No Ban on Screening TV Ads for U.S. Products

BK0704071292 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0600 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Radio Television Malaysia, RTM, does not ban the screening of any advertisements for American products on television. This was stated by Information Ministry Parliamentary Secretary Datuk Fauzi Abdul Rahman. He said that what was happening was that several advertisements for the American products were suspended for the time being following investigations into allegations that they breached ethics set by the ministry.

The ministry received a complaint that several of the advertisements breached the ethics and it was investigating. If true, the advertisers will be asked to make the necessary changes before the advertisements can be allowed to be screened again. He told reporters in the eastern state of Pahang the ethics lays down a number of guidelines which advertisers are required to follow for their advertisements to be aired.

Extradition Hearing of Drug Suspect Scheduled

BK0804101892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0931 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 8 (OANA-BERNAMA)—The extradition case of a Thai merchant, who is wanted by the American authorities on two charges of importing heroin into the United States, will be mentioned in the Magistrate's Court here on April 27.

Magistrate B.K. Chan fixed the date for mention Wednesday.

The merchant, Lin Chien Pang, 52, of Chiang Mai, Thailand, is wanted by the American Government to stand trial in a District Court in New York, United States.

Lin, also known as teacher Lin or Sen Woo Asue, is charged with conspiracy to import in excess of one kilogramme of heroin into the United States between May, 1991, and March 20, 1992.

He is also facing a charge of importing in excess of one kilogramme of heroin around January 13, 1992, in violation of the United States law.

Deputy Public Prosecutor Lee Ooi Kuan said Lin was arrested at Pudu Raya Hotel, Jalan Pudu, here, at 2:20 am on March 15.

UN Chief Urged To 'Personally' Solve Libya Issue

BK0204083892 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0800 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Malaysia has urged the UN secretary general, Butrus Butrus Ghali, to personally play a diplomatic role to help resolve the Libya issue before sanctions are enforced on Tripoli on the 15th of this month. Foreign Minister Datuk Abdullah Haji Ahmad Badawi said it is appropriate and timely for the UN chief himself to deal with the matter. All along Mr. Butrus Ghali has sent his representatives to deal with the problem.

The Security Council yesterday decided to impose sanctions on Libya. This is to force Tripoli to hand over two of its citizens wanted in the bombing of the Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988. Datuk Abdullah said during the next two weeks, all parties concerned should try to use diplomacy to solve the issue. Malaysia feels that sanctions should only be enforced at a last resort as it could bring serious consequences to Libya. The minister pointed out that Foreign Affairs Ministry officials are studying the implications of such an action. Datuk Abdullah was speaking to newsmen in Kuala Lumpur at the handing over to the Red Crescent Society of Malaysia cash assistance and medical supplies for the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh, the earthquake victims in Turkey, and the refugees in Somalia.

UN Resolution Criticized

BK0604101092 Kuala Lumpur NEW STRAITS TIMES in Enlgish 3 Apr 92 p 8

[Editorial: "UN Resolution Not the Answer"]

[Text] The United Nations Security Council has adopted a resolution prohibiting air travel and the sale of arms, aircraft and aircraft parts to Libya, and imposing restrictions on its diplomats in support of US, British and French demand that Libya hand over two of its agents allegedly involved in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, and the 1989 bombing of Flight 772 of French UTA over Niger, killing 441 people in all. Libya has two weeks to comply with the demand or face the sanctions.

While no country voted against the resolution, there were five abstentions including Security Council permanent member, China. This less than unanimous vote indicates that while the big powers managed to pass the resolution they wanted there are issues troubling many members of the Security Council in particular and the UN in general.

While there is consensus on the condemnation and punishment of terrorism, whether it is done on an individual basis or supported by the state, the way the big powers have gone about solving this problem have brought up many disturbing questions. The situation is not helped by the perception among some members of the nonaligned nations that the Security Council had acted purely on the whims of the big powers, which seem bent on getting their own way despite legitimate obstacles which should properly be addressed and solved first.

Among the major points still unresolved is that there are no extradition treaties between Libya and its accusers, the United States, Britain and France. Accordingly, under international law, Libya is not obliged to hand over its citizens as demanded by the three countries. When the Western powers persist with their demand does this mean that international law has no place here?

In spite of this, Libya was prepared to weigh the situation provided the Western powers produce concrete evidence of its citizens' guilt and other related matters for the West insists, in addition to handing over the suspects, that Libya end its support of terrorist groups as well as provide information of the groups it has supported in the past.

What is puzzling is why the US and France have refused to furnish the evidence, if they really have it and are confident it will stand in a court of law. They are asking the world to have faith in their goodwill and judgment in this matter. Unfortunately, their past record in dealing with the countries of the Third World inspire no confidence that justice and fair play will prevail.

Taken in this perspective, the resolution passed by the Security Council can be seen as an attempt to sidestep this and other obstacles to solving this issue in the way preferred by the big powers. This is indeed an unfortunate move, as the past record of the Council vis-a-vis terrorism against civilian aircraft shows a dismal performance.

When the former Soviet Union deliberately shot down Korean Airlines Flight 007 on August 31, 1983, killing 269 on board and when the US cruiser USS Vincennes shot down an Iranian civilian aircraft on July 3, 1988 killing all 290 passengers, there was no reaction from the Security Council.

So while everyone condemns terrorism and if Libyan citizens are guilty of it they should get their just desserts, the passing of the Security Council resolution is not the best solution for rather than providing a neat solution, it raises more troubling questions.

China Expected To Buy More Natural Rubber

BK0304095892 Kuala Lumpur BERNAMA in English 0429 GMT 3 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 3 (OANA-BERNAMA)—China is expected to increase its purchase of natural rubber (NR) from Malaysia following its difficulty in securing supply from Thailand, the world's leading NR producer.

The BUSINESS TIMES reported Friday that an official from the Malaysian Rubber Exchange and Licensing Board (MRELB) said the Chinese have been enquiring for rubber in Kuala Lumpur but sales have not been confirmed. "We expect higher NR imports by China this year," he said.

In 1991 China reported 44,000 tonnes of natural rubber from Malaysia, one of its smallest purchases of NR from Malaysia in recent years.

A severe wintering season since February has drastically reduced Thai rubber supply, traders in Bangkok said.

Malaysia's production is also being affected by wintering but it may not be as severe as in the Thai case.

Sabotage Possible Cause of Airport Fire

BK0704101892 Kuala Lumpur Voice of Malaysia in English 0828 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Kuala Lumpur, April 7 (OANA-BERNAMA)—Police, investigating the cause of Monday's fire at Terminal One of the Kuala Lumpur International Airport, have found no evidence of sabotage or mischief so far but have not ruled out such a possibility.

Criminal Investigation Director Zaman Khan told a press conference at the airport Tuesday that investigators were also looking into the possibility of a short circuit causing the blaze which gutted a row of duty-free shops in the south wing of the terminal.

Three security guards, two of them women, suffocated to death in the fire that closed the terminal, which handles international flights, for some 15 hours.

Zaman said the fire could have started somewhere in the middle of the row of 28 duty-free shops. The fire razed all but one shop, Agate Duty Free Emporium, which is located at the far end of the terminal.

While activity at the terminal is returning to normal Tuesday, police have cordoned off the affected area and are recording statements from those who were there at the time of the early morning blaze.

Cambodia

Sihanouk Gives Thanks Before Leaving for PRC

BK0804041392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Speech by Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, at Phnom Penh's Pochentong Airport before leaving for a visit to the PRC on 7 April—recorded]

[Text] Greetings to the most beloved clergy, children, and compatriots. Greetings to His Excellency [H.E.] Chairman Chea Sim and wife; H.E. Chairman Heng Samrin and wife; H.E. Chairman Hun Sen and wife; H.E. Son Sann and wife; H.E. Khieu Samphan; Prince Norodom Ranariddh; excellencies; ladies and gentlemen; and children, particularly those representing the Cambodian People's Party and the State of Cambodia, who come here in great numbers to see me off today. Greetings to H.E. Yasushi Akashi, chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia and special representative of the UN secretary general. Greetings to their excellencies and ladies and gentlemen members of UNTAC and the diplomatic corps. Greetings to all foreign friends, from the press and local and foreign radio and television.

I would like to express great thanks to everyone for conveying best wishes on the occasion I am leading the delegation of our SNC to make a state and official visit at the solemn invitation of our great friends, the PRC and the DPRK. The two countries are our great friends and have made concrete contributions, among the international community and all great friends of Cambodia, to assist our Cambodia to regain national unity, national reconciliation, and durable peace in the future in accordance with the aspiration and most noble ideal of our 8 to 9 million Cambodian people in and outside the country. We should thank our great friends for their good deeds.

These two great friends have asked me to pay a state and official visit to strengthen the relations of great friendship, fraternity, and solidarity and cooperation between us and them. [Words indistinct] thus I would like to thank you all for kindly letting me go to these two great countries for 10 days, from 7 to 17 April. Thank you very much for kindly letting me go to China and Korea as both head of state and head of our independent Cambodia's delegation. H.E. Chairman Hun Sen, prime minister of our State of Cambodia, is also a distinguished member of the delegation, along with the leaders of the other four [changes thought] three parties, namely H.E. Son Sann, H.E. Khieu Samphan, and Prince Norodom Ranariddh. This delegation is therefore a Cambodian national delegation showing the world that we are well-united and reconciled; that we have provided peace, security, happiness, and liberal democracy to our nation and motherland; and that we have agreed to unite from now on. We pledge to fully implement the 23 October 1991 Paris agreement, which is the basic law for rebuilding our Cambodia linking this new era to that of Angkor.

Thus, clergy, excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, children, compatriots, and dear friends, please be informed that it is very important that we show unity and undertake this visit. This is really beneficial to our nation. Compatriot nuns asked me not to desert them. I will not desert you children. [Sihanouk laughs] I will be away for only a brief period. I solemnly promise to remain with the nation throughout my entire life, until I am old and until I die. I am old now but not yet dead. I will stay with you and will not desert you children.

On this new traditional year of our nation and country, I pray that the triple Buddhist jewels look after the supreme patriarches whom I most revere, the two venerables, and the entire clergy; children and compatriots; and excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, and friends, such as H.E. Yasushi Akashi. May you enjoy the five Buddhist blessings. [applause]

Makes Statement Upon Arrival

BK0704151192 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 92

["Statement by His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, upon his arrival in Beijing, the PRC, on 7 April 1992"—read by announcer]

[Text] It is an immense honor for the delegation of the Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] and myself to be invited by the respected leadership of the PRC to pay an official visit to this glorious country, a sincere great friend of Cambodia and its people. To underline the significance of our visit—the first official visit by the SNC to a friendly country—our delegation includes, particularly, His Excellency [H.E.] Hun Sen, chairman of the Council of Ministers of the State of Cambodia; H.E. Son Sann, chairman of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front; H.E. Khieu Samphan, chairman of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea; and His Royal Highness Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of FUNCINPEC [the National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia].

We would like to express our most heartfelt respects to the PRC, to the brave, great Chinese people, to the Communist Party of China, and to the Chinese Government for playing the most important role in the Cambodian peace process. The PRC is one of the main architects of the historic 23 October 1991 Paris agreement. H.E. Qian Qichen, state councilor and minister of foreign affairs of the PRC, paid a visit on 11 February 1992 to Cambodia, which has returned to peace and national unity with its independence remarkably contributing to the strengthening and expansion of the traditional relations of friendship and comprehensive cooperation binding Cambodia and the PRC, the Cambodian people and the Chinese people together.

Our current official visit to the PRC is of historic significance in the sense that our delegation is the delegation of reunified Cambodia once again enjoying peace as in the past, and national unity with sovereignty.

I am convinced that our delegation will contribute to further consolidating and developing the bonds of friendship and cooperation binding our two countries together and that, in the meantime, it will benefit implementation of all the provisions of the 23 October 1991 Paris peace agreement in Cambodia.

Cambodia would like to express profound gratitude to the PRC for giving it generous humanitarian aid and for the goodwill to participate right on the spot in all the useful UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] activities for peace, the rehabilitation of the Cambodian people, and the reconstruction of Cambodia.

Long live Cambodia-PRC fraternal friendship! Long live the Chinese people! Long live the PRC!

Various Activities of Prince Sihanouk Reported

Hosts Reception for Akashi

BK0804062092 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 7 Apr Apr 92

[Text] On the night of 3 April at Khemarin Palace, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of Cambodia's Supreme National Council [SNC], and his wife, hosted a reception for His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, chief of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. Also attending the occasion were H.E. Dit Munti, information minister and SNC member; H.E. Hor Namhong, foreign minister and SNC member; and H.E. Ataul Karim, head of the UN Advance Mission in Cambodia.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk highly appreciated the results of the implementation of the Paris peace agreement. HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk further said that on behalf of the SNC and the Cambodian people he would like to express profound thanks to the United Nations and all friendly countries for their efforts to enable the peace process in Cambodia to gradually achieve good results.

Receives Australian Group

BK0704090892 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] On the morning of 3 April, His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Cambodian SNC [Supreme National Council], received a group of Cambodians living in Australia, led by (Abhai Navit). (Abhai Navit) profoundly thanked the prince and the royal consort, who are leading the national reconciliation crusade in Cambodia, for granting him the audience. (Abhai Navit) informed the prince about his intention to contribute to restoring and rebuilding the Cambodian motherland.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk praised all compatriots living abroad who want to contribute to restoring and rebuilding the country and nation. The prince talked about the process to implement the Paris peace agreement, which would bring genuine peace and security to all Cambodians.

Meets Phnom Penh Leaders 31 Mar

BK0504063392 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 4 Apr 92

[Text] On 31 March at the Khemarin Palace, persons in Phnom Penh Municipality led by Sim Ka, member of the Standing Committee of the Cambodian People's Party Central Committee and chairman of the municipality's Party and People's Committees, paid a courtesy call on His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the Supreme National Council of Cambodia.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk expressed great joy and a warm welcome to the Phnom Penh leaders and highly evaluated the past achievements scored by Phnom Penh authorities, including the efforts to revamp and beautify Phnom Penh city.

Communique on 6 Apr SNC Meeting Reported

BK0704145992 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 7 Apr 92

["Communique of the 6 April meeting of the Cambodian Supreme National Council" in Phnom Penh—read by announcer]

[Text] The Cambodian Supreme National Council [SNC] held a meeting at the Khemarin Palace at 0900 on 6 April under the august chairmanship of His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Sihanouk, head of state and chairman of the SNC, and with the participation of Mr. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general and head of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC]. Also present were representatives of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council, the representative of Indonesia—cochairman of the Paris conference on Cambodia—and a number of observers.

1. Close examination of the latest developments: The SNC and UNTAC closely examined the latest developments in the Cambodian situation. Mr. Akashi said that in the next one or two days UNTAC will send intermission agents to provide relief to refugees from the recent fighting in Kompong Thom Province. Mr. Akashi also informed the SNC that since the start of the repatriation on 30 March 1992, a total of 1,655 Cambodians

have now returned to the motherland from different camps along the border in Thailand.

He also affirmed that the military situation in the country in general was quiet with a most encouraging improvement in the degree of cooperation among the liaison officers at all positions. In Kompong Thom the cease-fire is being maintained and the factions are concentrating their efforts on reopening roads and highways throughout the province at a time when 200 UN soldiers are being posted there and will soon be further reinforced.

Mr. Akashi also made an announcement on the establishment of border posts to be implemented simultaneously and on the basis of equality, including the different zones where troops are to be stationed. Afterwards, Mr. Akashi and HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk made a plea for mutual understanding and sincerity in the spirit and letter of the Paris agreement to create favorable conditions for the timely onset of the second stage. This plea was accepted. The Chinese ambassador, coordinator of the Perm Five, expressed hope that all factions would take more effective and positive steps to cooperate with UNTAC in this matter.

2. SNC observation on the draft election law: Representatives of all factions made their views known about the draft presented to the SNC by Mr. Akashi during its meeting on 1 April. They made a general observation and raised several specific questions about various sentences of that draft. Mr. Akashi assured that he would prepare answers to the points raised.

3. The presentation of the conventions on civil, political, and economic rights and on social and cultural rights: Mr. Akashi explained the overall contents and significance of two conventions to be signed by the SNC members in the presence of the UN secretary general during the 20 April 1992 meeting of the SNC. It was agreed that the ratification will be signed by the 12 SNC members.

4. Miscellaneous: Mr. Son Sann, Mr. Hor Namhong, and Mr. Hun Sen made statements concerning various aspects of internal security and public order. Mr. Akashi gave assurances that he would take all possible measures in support of the SNC to help maintain order in both the rural and urban areas. Mr. Akashi also proposed guidelines on implementation of the freedom of assembly. Mr. Son Sann, Mr. Khieu Samphan, and Prince Norodom Ranariddh seconded these guidelines.

HRH Prince Norodom Sihanouk then proposed that the Visakhapuja religious ceremony will take place under his august sponsorship with the participation of all factions during the full-moon night of May, and this proposal was unanimously accepted. Mr. Khieu Samphan, Mr. Son Sann, and Mr. Hor Namhong suggested additional points to the agenda of future SNC meetings.

The next SNC meeting will be held at 1500 on 20 April 1992.

More Reportage on 6 Apr Cabinet Reshuffle

BK0704130092 Phnom Penh SPK in English 1059 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Phnom Penh SPK April 7—The National Assembly reshuffled its cabinet Monday and amended its Constitution to give Chea Sim the powers of the presidency, reports AFP.

The minister of education and the minister for war veterans and social affairs were replaced. A new minister of propaganda and information was added.

The former head of state Heng Samrin was demoted to an honorary position in the party—which has controlled the government through its Communist system for 13 years—just before the return from exile in November of Prince Norodom Sihanouk, considered the super-president of Cambodia's four factions.

Despite the presence of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC)—which supervises the Phnom Penh government and can sack ministers—the day-to-day administration is the responsibility of Cambodians.

Still, Chea Sim, who is also chairman of the National Assembly, delivered a strong message against corruption, inefficiency and incompetence in his speech at the opening session.

He accused critics of the govermment of "making propaganda as grist for the political mill," adding that top officials have acted against the siphoning off of state assets.

"Many high-ranking ministers, together with vice ministers and various provincial officials have been transferred or changed their duties" due to corruption allegations, Chea Sim said.

"The government has made corrective efforts that will continue," and offenders will be brought before the courts, he vowed.

"Our government is brave enough to recognize our points of weakness," he said.

The Phnom Penh government has recently been trying to change its structure from Communism to one that will allow a multi-party system.

Dit Munti, a high-rangking cadre in charge of propaganda in the previously Cambodian People's Party, was named minister of the newly created Ministry of Propaganda and Information, political sources said.

The decision was made last month and was formalized at the legislative session.

The new ministry was split from the old Information and Culture Ministry where the current minister, Hang Chuon, retained his title as minister of culture. Dit

Munti sits on the Supreme National Council (SNC) which represents Cambodian sovereignty in the run-up to elections in 1993.

Im Chhunlim—another high-ranking party official, member of the SNC and former history teacher—became education minister. He replaces Yos Son, who while also a teacher, was generally regarded as incompetent. He is to resume a non-official role in the party.

War Invalids and Social Affairs Minister Koy Buntha was moved to the civic action group, the National Front, with unspecified duties and was replaced by his deputy Do Sohan.

The National Assembly also drew up detailed plans of its and the Council of Ministers internal workings.

UN Head Urged To Ensure Citizens' Security

BK0304123392 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] His Royal Highness [HRH] Prince Norodom Ranariddh, chairman of FUNCINPEC [National United Front for an Independent, Neutral, Peaceful, and Cooperative Cambodia] and member of the Supreme National Council, wrote a message dated 24 March 1992 to His Excellency [H.E.] Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general in Cambodia, urging him to take measures to provide security for all citizens in Phnom Penh and the rest of Cambodia. In this message, HRH Prince Ranariddh wrote: One of the most serious problems at present is security.

After describing the aggravating incidents which took place one after another in Phnom Penh over the past few months, HRH Prince Ranariddh wrote: Besides all these incidents in Phnom Penh which are known to everybody, how many other normal citizens and how many ordinary unknown teachers, professors, and civil servants have been murdered mysteriously? Several responsible officials, activists, and sympathisers of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front and of FUNCINPEC have been victims of murder, attempted murder, and detention or have mysteriously disappeared without any traces.

The prince went on: At present, Phnom Penh and all provincial seats of Cambodia are immersed in an atmosphere of terror. In such a situation, how can the preparations for elections proceed? For this reason, I urge Your Excellency to take appropriate measures to ensure respect for human rights and, particularly, to guarantee security for all Cambodian citizens regardless of their political affiliations.

Tie Banh, Polish Envoy Discuss UNTAC Troops

BK0204154592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 1300 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Summary from poor reception] His Excellency [H.E.] Tie Banh, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers, minister of national defense, and member of the Cambodian Supreme National Council, met on 27 March with H.E. Krzysztof Kosel, ambassador extraordinary and plenipotentiary of the Republic of Poland to Cambodia. H.E. Tie Banh expressed satisfaction with the growing ties between the State of Cambodia [SOC] and Poland. He also briefed the Polish ambassador on the outcome of the implementation of the Paris peace agreement. While noting that although the Khmer Rouge faction has continued its attempts to destablize and provoke the SOC in a bid to obstruct implementation of the UN peace plan, the SOC has never given up its goodwill for peace in order to end the suffering of the Cambodian people.

H.E. Tie Banh condemned the Khmer Rouge faction for violating the cease-fire, attacking the SOC faction, and causing serious hardship to innocent people, especially those in Kompong Thom, Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey, and Battambang.

The Polish ambassador praised the SOC for correctly implementing the Paris agreement. He assured that Polish-Cambodian relations will be further enhanced after elections in Cambodia. He promised to continue what the Polish Government has done for Cambodia in the past and even to further improve upon it. He said that in its work relations with the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia [UNTAC], Poland has sent two officers to join UNTAC. He revealed that UNTAC Chief Akashi had requested Polish troop participation in the UN peacekeeping mission and that this proposal would be approved by the Polish Government.

Son Sann Urges Foreign Troop Withdrawal

BK0304070892 (Clandestine) Voice of the Great National Union Front of Cambodia in Cambodian 2330 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Text] Addressing the meeting of the Supreme National Council [SNC] on 1 April, His Excellency [H.E.] Son Sann, member of the SNC and president of the Khmer People's National Liberation Front, said that a few days after arriving in Cambodia, H.E. Yasushi Akashi, special representative of the UN secretary general and head of the UNTAC [United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia] called for respect for human rights in Cambodia. But, without peace and security, respect for human rights in Cambodia is impossible. This question could be settled only after the Paris agreement is respected and implemented fully, particularly regarding the supervision on total withdrawal of all categories of foreign forces from Cambodia.

KR Captive Discusses Military Operations

BK0804063692 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 2300 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Summary from poor reception] Reports from the UN Military Coordination Committee say that on 30 March

1992, Kompong Thom received a surrendering person named Lim, a soldier in Division 616 of the Party of Democratic Kampuchea [PDK]. In a frank answer, Lim said his group was ordered by the command of Division 616 to seize portions of Routes 6 and 12 and a number of areas in Kompong Thom before the arrival of the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia. This soldier also specified that he fired four H-107 rockets on Kompong Thom provincial town. He also admitted that he himself fired at the white-painted helicopter of the United Nations. This has been denied by the PDK and its radio.

At a meeting on 18 March 1992 of the Mixed Military Working Group in Pailin, representative of the Democratic Kampuchea [DK] army denied and denounced General Loridon's unjust accusation that DK troops fired at the UN aircraft on 26 February in Kompong Thom.

According to the same sources, in Siem Reap-Oddar Meanchey Province, on 1 April, an infantry (?unit) of the PDK from Division (?980) launched an offensive on two positions of the Cambodian People's Army. Between 250 and 300 men were used in the attack with the support of artillery fire. The fighting lasted from 0900 to 1700. Two of our men were wounded; we lost a position at (?Trapeang Srov).

Efforts To Secure Kompong Thom Cease-Fire Noted

BK0504103592 Phnom Penh Samleng Pracheachon Kampuchea Radio Network in Cambodian 0430 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] After inspecting the cease-fire violations provoked by the Khmer Rouge side on 30 March 1992 at bases in Kompong Thom Province, General Loridon, (?deputy) commander of the UN peacekeeping force in Cambodia, along with generals who are military officers from the four Cambodian parties, studied and discussed the real situation that caused the cease-fire violations, which run counter to the Paris peace agreement.

After the discussion, Loridon put forward a number of UNTAC [UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia] proposals aimed at solving this conflict, including the proposal calling on all parties, particularly the Khmer Rouge side, to immediately stop violating the cease-fire and order troops to gather on the spot and suspend all activities. The general stressed to the four warring Cambodian parties that if they agree with this proposal, UNTAC will dispatch Indonesian troops to bases in Kompong Thom Province within 24 hours after the meeting. The task of UN forces sent to Kompong Thom Province would be to inspect the process of separation of troops in which Khmer Rouge troops would be withdrawn to Phnum Thmei, (?Prasat Veang), and the State of Cambodia side would withdraw intervention forces from Kompong Thom Province.

At the same time, Loridon also said that after achieving positive results in solving cease-fire violations, UNTAC will proceed to repair National Routes 12 and 6 and bridges damaged by the Khmer Rouge side. To show goodwill in abiding by the Paris peace agreement, which the State of Cambodia has meticulously implemented since signing it on 23 October 1991 in Paris, the State of Cambodia fully agreed with great pleasure with General Michel Loridon's proposal and UNTAC intervention.

Based on a stance full of goodwill and love for peace, the people, and the beloved Angkor motherland, the State of Cambodia agreed to a week-long cease-fire in Kompong Thom Province in accordance with the proposal General Loridon put forward at the meeting between UNTAC and military representatives of all Cambodian parties in Kompong Thom on 30 March.

As for the time to begin this cease-fire, the State of Cambodia side proposed 0000 [1700 GMT] on 1 April. The State of Cambodia also stressed that the Khmer Rouge side should, in accordance with the UNTAC plan, promise to withdraw its troops from National Route 12 and a number of areas it has seized from the Cambodian People's Army since 25 February 1992.

Laos

Delegation Attends Inter-Parliamentary Conference

BK0404131292 Vientiane KPL in English 0923 GMT 4 Apr 92

[Text] Vientiane, April 4 (KPL)—A delegation of the People's Supreme Assembly led by member Viset Savengseuksa, who is also vice president of the Lao Inter-parliamentary Committee, left here yesterday for the 87th International Conference of the Inter-parliamentary Federation due from April 6-11 in Cameroon.

The conference will focus on the role of the world parliament circle in environmental protection and democracy promotion in administration.

After the conference, the delegation will go to France on a working visit to exchange ideas on parliamentary affairs with the French parliamentary officials.

Youths Urged To Upgrade Work Skills, Knowledge

BK0604101392 Vientiane Vitthayou Hengsat Radio Network in Lao 0430 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Editorial: "Pay Attention to Upgrading Qualifications of Members of Youth Unions in the Army"]

[Text] Beloved listeners and all youths, at present in terms of manpower, youths constitute the largest component of the Lao People's Army and act as vanguard forces in executing work in all areas. The strength of youths is extremely vital to the overall strength of the Army. Therefore, the incessant upgrading and strengthening of the quality of members of youth unions, who are the principal forces of all youths, is a required duty of our party.

At present, the world situation is changing at a rather rapid and complicated pace. In our country, bad elements have not ceased making evil designs and carrying out subversive activities in many areas, thereby creating considerable difficulties for our people's national construction. Therefore, to fulfill our Army's and people's tasks of defending and building the country, it calls for all youths to unceasingly increase and upgrade their roles and qualifications to deserve the title of being the right hands of the Army in executing all tasks, especially national defense and public security maintenance work.

To fulfill the difficult but noble tasks entrusted them by the party and state, first of all, members of youth unions in our armed forces must appreciate the fifth resolution of the partry Central Committee and the 11th resolution of the party Central Committee Political Bureau on the tasks of national defense and public security maintenance, which are both the immediate and long-term duties of our armed forces. At the same time, our youths must constantly endeavor to train themselves and to hold aloft their roles and responsibilities; forge a spirit of being faithful toward the party and a sense of all-round revolutionary enthusiasm; look for all available opportunities to engage in study with a view to elevating the level of their cultural, scientific, and technical standards and to acquiring specialized knowledge as a basis for carrying out their specific duties; and actively fulfill the three- goods emulation campaign launched by the Army General Political Department and materialize the three-unities and four-offensives slogan of the Lao People's Revolutionary Youth Union Central Committee in executing the actual duties of their respective units.

To enable members of youth unions to have conditions to march forward to fulfill these tasks, all party and command committees must pay attention to regularly studying and closely supervising youth unions attached to their own units. Particularly, they must advise youth union committees on how to engage in study and to efficiently lead their unions. At the same time, they must pay attention to closely following, supervising, and criticizing inefficient members of youth unions and to promptly commending those with outstanding achievements and progress in all spheres of work. Only by doing this will we be able to encourage all youth unions to successfully fulfill their duties and to convince all members of youth unions to see a bright future as faithful continuators of our party and country. At the same time, it will serve to increase the strength of all units and the overall strength of the entire Army.

Pact on Water Improvement Signed With Japan

BK0304105892 Vientiane KPL in English 0901 GMT 3 Apr 92

[Text] Vientiane, April 3 (KPL)—A tripartite agreement on potable water system improvement and expansion in Vientiane municipality was concluded here yesterday between the Lao and Japanese Governments and the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

Signing the document were the representatives of the sides: Lao Deputy Minister of Communications, Transport, Post, and Construction Seun Phetsang-han, Deputy Director of Japanese International Assistance Bureau Hiroki Hashizume, and head of the visiting ADB delegation Ian B. Powell.

Minister of Communications, Transport, Post, and Construction Bouathong and senior officials from the three sides witnessed the signing ceremony of the agreement.

This agreement provides that ADB has agreed to grant a loan and that the Japanese Government has provided a US $50 million grant aid to the Lao Government.

The granted loan and aid will be used for a project of improvement and expansion of potable water supply system in Vientiane Municipality.

The project covers the improvement of the existing water system at Chinaimo, the construction of water pipeline and water system expansion to Tha Deua, Dong Dok, Phontong, Tat Thong, Samkhe, and Nong Niang areas.

The project survey will start in 1992 and its construction works in 1993. The project is scheduled for completion in 1995.

Philippines

Evacuation of Workers From Libya Prepared

State-Run Jobs Pose Problems

HK0304092192 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 3 Apr 92

[Text] Problems are possible in the evacuation of Filipino overseas workers in Libya. According to Under Secretary Pablo Suarez of the Department of Foreign Affairs [DFA], this is because most of them are under contract to several state-owned facilities, like hospitals and oil installations, in Libya. Suarez fears that the Filipino workers under contract to the Libyan Government may not be allowed to leave the country.

Under the government's evacuation plan, Filipino workers will be transported by land to Egypt and Tunisia. However, the DFA is also considering the possibility of transporting them by sea through Malta.

Prior to this, the Libyan ambassador to the Philippines said that his government would protect all foreign workers in Libya, particularly the Filipinos, in the event of an evacuation. At present, the Libyan Embassy in Manila is still waiting instructions from Tripoli.

Libyan and DFA officials are expected to meet in Manila within the coming days to discuss the fate of the Filipino workers.

Filipinos Not To Be Targets

HK0404044992 Quezon City ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corporation DZMM in Tagalog 0400 GMT 4 Apr 92

[Text] The Labor Department has stated that Filipinos in Libya will not be targets of attacks. Labor and Employment Secretary Maria Nieves Confessor issued the assurance after Libya announced it will retaliate against the countries responsible for the sanctions against Tripoli. The Philippines is obliged to support the sanctions because it is a UN member. The series of attacks on foreign embassies in Tripoli has now become a point for concern.

Activist Groups To Support Libya

HK0604022292 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] The Bagong Alyansang Makabayan [New Nationalist Alliance] will hold a rally on 10 April to protest the plan by the UN Security Council against Libya. The Kilusang Mayo Uno [1 May Movement], as well as the National Center for Arts and Literature, Gabriela, League of Filipino Students, and other militant groups will join the rally. In this connection, various Muslim groups will rally on 15 April in front of the U.S. Embassy to protest moves against Libya. The rally will be led by the Arab-Moro Solidarity Organization, Alyansa ng Mga Morong Mabangsa [Alliance of Nationalist Muslims] and (al-Fatah) Foundation.

Evacuation Plan Called 'Harebrained'

HK0604061392 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 6 Apr 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Evacuate Malacanang"]

[Text] Evacuate our workers from Libya?

What a harebrained idea.

It's just another show of government's tremendous talent for being penny-wise, pound-foolish. Six months ago, in the name of a few thousand base workers in Olongapo, government tried to ram a rotten treaty down our throats. For weeks, it dragged us through an exercise in self-flagellation, something the government of the worst banana republic would never have done. You can't eat pride, our government cried. You can't eat honor. You can't eat sovereignty. It's jobs you can eat—or Gordon's people can. And so, pity the poor slobs and keep the bases.

Yet for the same pride and honor, if not for sovereignty, government now thinks nothing of throwing 20,000 Filipinos into a state of joblessness. Probably more, as there are no clear figures on the number of Filipino workers in Libya. More than this, for the same pride and honor, it thinks nothing of drowning the country in higher oil prices, as Libya threatens to cut off oil sales to countries that are hostile to it.

Is the price of keeping our workers in Libya as steep as agreeing to a completely disagreeable treaty? Is the price of relatively cheaper oil as steep as agreeing to prostitute the nation?

Not at all.

The only reason government wants our people to come streaming out of Libya is that the UN has imposed sanctions on it, and we want to go along with the UN. Which is to say that we want to go along with the U.S., which is the only remaining superpower in the world, which means to take its Robocop role seriously. Is its cause a good cause? Well, anti-terrorism is a good cause—the UN wants Libya to yield six suspects in the bombing of several airliners—and we would do well to support it. But is this the way to support it?

No.

We are not at war with Libya, even if that is what the imbeciles in the foreign affairs department would have us be. In addition to pulling the Filipinos out of Libya, Raul Manglapus, the man who ate his pride without catsup to give us the bases treaty, is now also "considering" expelling the Libyan diplomats from Philippine soil. All this while saying that we will continue to maintain friendly relations with the government and people of Libya. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi may be batty, but he is not that batty to construe a long line of Filipinos trooping to neighboring Arab countries and his people being dropped unceremoniously home by PAL [Philippine Airlines] as demonstrations of friendship.

Indeed, we are not only not at war with Libya, we are on completely friendly terms with it. With benefits that largely go to us. The Libyans do not seem to be particularly interested in anything in our country, except our women. Whereas the Americans are interested in everything in this country, including its women, and don't give back the same benefits. We, on the other hand, need Libya for oil and jobs. At one point in the past, we even needed it for resolving the conflict in Mindanao. Lest we forget, that was how the Tripoli Agreement came about, which effectively ended the secessionist dreams of the MNLF [Moro National Liberation Front].

Even if our standing in the international community were diminished, it would be worth it. For here, and not on the bases question where the very essence of nationhood was at stake, is where we can do better eating chicken than pride. But, such as it is, that standing won't even be diminished at all. Moral support is all the support a poor country like ours can give to the cause of compelling Libya to give up the presumed terrorists. Not least because stopping terrorism, like many other things in life, begins at home. We can better contribute to stopping international terrorism not by helping to carry out sanctions against Libya but simply by moving to stop the kidnapping of Chinese businessmen in Cotabato.

Evacuating our workers from Libya is a harebrained idea. Happily, we have only one month more to go before the present occupants of Malacanang begin to evacuate from it.

Libya Gives Assurances on Exit Visas

HK0604114292 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0950 GMT 6 Apr 92

[By Rey Arquiza]

[Text] The Tunisian Government has indicated a willingness to accept as refugees, Filipinos who may flee from Libya. This was announced by Foreign Affairs Undersecretary Pablo Suarez. Tunisia is one of the nearest countries to Libya and is separated only by land borders. During an exodus from Libya, Filipinos would only need to cross these land borders in order to enter Tunisia. As international flights will not be allowed to enter or leave Libya when the UN resolution is implemented, the only way to get out of the country would be across the Tunisian and Egyptian borders.

At the same time, Suarez said that the Libyan Government has given assurances that they will not prevent foreigners, especially Filipinos, from leaving the country. He added that the Libyan Government is even expediting the issuance of exit visas for foreigners wishing to leave the country before the UN resolution deadline. Most foreigners in Libya are now preparing to leave the country before the 15 April UN deadline.

An estimated 10,000 Filipinos, with 30,000 dependents, are working in Libya. The Department of Foreign Affairs recently issued instructions for the dependents of these workers to begin leaving the country.

Contract Workers Allowed To Depart

HK0804023192 Manila THE CHRONICLE in English 8 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] The Government yesterday issued a circular allowing travel to Libya by Filipinos with contracts to work there.

The circular followed conflicting assessments of the Libyan situation; President Aquino had said she expected no reprisals from Libya for the Philippine support of United Nations sanctions against it, while the Philippine embassy there had cited dangers and advised Filipino workers to leave their Libyan jobs.

But the workers have continued to ignore the embassy warning to leave the country saying they could not find equally well paying jobs in Manila, Foreign Undersecretary Pablo Suarez said yesterday.

The reaction which the embassy in Tripoli described as "expected" citing similar reaction of Filipinos in Kuwait shortly before the outbreak of the Gulf War was conveyed by Philippine Ambassador Abdul Ghafuur Madki Alonto to Foreign Secretary Raul S. Manglapus.

Libyan Ambassador to the Philippines Rajab Azzarouq [name as published], however, assured Suarez Monday that Libya would protect the estimated 10,000 Filipino workers employed by various public agencies in that north African state and about 30,000 dependents.

Meanwhile, acting Immigration Commissioner Bayani Subiodo Jr. yesterday ordered immigration officials at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to closely monitor the entry of LIbyan nationals.

The order came on the heels of the call of Libyan leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to their Muslim brothers for support in their fight aginst a Security Council resolution demanding the surrender of two Libyan suspects who allegedly masterminded the bombing of a Pan Am jet over Scotland in 1988. The UN also threatened sanctions if Libya does not comply by April 15.

Japan Urged To Release Funds for Energy Projects

HK0804025892 Manila PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER in English 8 Apr 92 p 18

[By Arleen C. Chipongian]

[Text] The government has formally requested Japan to release a portion of the $1-billion 18th yen loan package intended for energy-related projects in the Philippines.

Kazuo Sunaga, first secretary of the Japanese embassy in Manila, said yesterday that this was one of the major talking points in the week-long meetings between Finance Secretary Jesus P. Estanislao and Tokyo officials.

He said that the government had appealed to the Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan to give special attention to the energy-related loans in view of the pestering power shortage in the Philippines.

"The Philippines has asked that part of the 18th yen loan which is for power plant projects be released as this is an urgent (concern)," the Japanese embassy official said.

While no specific figure as to the amount of energy loans under the 18th yen package was given, Sunaga said that it was "substantial."

The OECF had decided to defer action on the country's request for the 18th yen loan package until after a new government is in place. General elections are scheduled next month.

The OECF's position was relayed during the meeting of the international donor community in Hong Kong last February.

What the Japanese agency committed during the Hong Kong meeting was the $200-million official development assistance for the rehabilitation of areas affected by Mt. Pinatubo's eruptions.

Sunaga said that energy loans were a priority of the Philippine government, adding that the Japan Export-Import Bank has promised to make available some $150-million in loans for energy-related projects.

Sunaga said that the OECF was expected to study the possibility of releasing the energy loan component of the 18th yen loan package to help finance the country's energy program for 1992.

Once the OECF decides to release the component for energy projects, the Japanese government will, in effect, be releasing the 18th yen loan package on a piecemeal basis according to the priority given to projects.

The Philippines forfeited the chance of securing the 18th yen loan package after it failed to reach an agreement with the Japanese government last month, the end of Tokyo's fiscal year.

Sunaga said that Japan was considering the release of the 18th yen loan package in the second half of this year, or when a successor government to the Aquino administration would have been chosen.

It had also indicated its intention to look into the economic program of the next administration before acting on the 18th yen loan request.

The $1-billion 18th yen loan package is slightly higher than the $940 million in loans obtained by the Philippines under the 17th yen package.

The yen loan package is one of the biggest sources of official development assistance for the Philippines.

Taiwan Approached for Subic Funding

HK0604055292 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 6 Apr 92 pp 1, 20

[By Buddy Dacer]

[Text] Taipei—Ambassador Alejandro Melchor, chairman of the Philippines' Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), accompanied by former Philippine National Bank chairman Placido Mapa Jr., recently conferred here with Taiwan's monetary and financial policy makers to seek financial support for the development of Subic in view of the pullout of U.S. naval forces there.

Official sources here informed Asia-Pacific News and Features (Aspac News) that the Philippine officials met last March 26 and 27 with Taiwan Central Governor Samuel S.C. Hsieh and other government financial advisers from the ministries of finance and economic affairs with Taiwan about possible massive investments for the development of Subic on top of the agenda.

The same sources said that Taiwan extended to the Philippine government indirect financial assistance in the amount of $20 million for the development of its communication network and other trade related infrastructures.

Melchor was reported to have expressed high hopes that Taiwan will respond positively to the Philippine government's appeal for financial package as the full development of Subic will immediately benefit Taiwan being the second biggest investor in the country and largest trading partner of the Philippines among Asian countries.

Taiwan Central Bank sources said that the Melchor mission was compelled by the uncertainty of Philippine access to International Monetary Fund (IMF) resources due to the fact that last year, the Philippine economy, as measured by the gross national product (GNP), fell by 0.05% as against the 3.93% real growth rate registered in the year before.

Coast Guard Arrests Nine Taiwanese Fishermen

HK0704141192 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 7 Apr 92

[By Rodney Jaleco]

[Text] Nine more Taiwanese fishermen were arrested by members of the Philippine Coast Guard [PCG] after they were caught fishing illegally in Camiguin de Babuyanes, near Cagayan.

According to a report by Rear Admiral Mariano Dumancas Jr., Philippine Navy chief, and PCG Commandant Carlos Agustin, a total of 18 Taiwanese fishermen have been caught by the PCG since 22 March. Five Taiwanese fishing boats have also been confiscated.

The nine Taiwanese fishermen were accompanied by 23 Filipino fishermen. All of them were on board three fishing boats identified as M/V (Rhodes), M/V Tess I, and M/V Tess II. The fishing vessels were registered under Futong Enterprises.

Agustin said that charges of obstruction will be filed against the fishermen because they tried to prevent the authorities from inspecting their boats. The fishermen also failed to show any documents allowing them to fish in Philippine waters.

British Firm Offers To Modernize Navy

HK0604020792 Manila DWIZ Voice of the Filipino People's Radio in Tagalog 2200 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] Rear Admiral Mariano Dumancas is urging the acceptance of an offer made by a British shipbuilder to modernize the country's naval force. In a letter sent by Dumancas to President Corazon Aquino, he endorsed the offer made by MNL [expansion unknown] International to turn the Philipine Navy into a strong naval force in the entire Asian region [as heard]. Dumancas recommended the purchase of four types of vessels, including eight units of (G-standard two) guided-missile frigates and guided-missile Cobras.

Nontrade Foreign Exchange Rules Relaxed Further

HK0104115692 Manila PHILIPPINES NEWSDAY in English 1 Apr 92 p 8

[By Andres B. Saracho]

[Text] The Central Bank [CB] has further relaxed its non-trade foreign exchange regulations, allowing the free use by local exporters of their retained dollar earnings in special foreign currency deposit accounts (SFCDAs).

The Monetary Board, the CB's top policy-making body, likewise approved in its meeting Monday the expansion in the coverage of loans that can be availed of by exporters from a dollar-based credit facility from the foreign currency deposit units (FCDUs) of local commercial banks without the need for prior CB approval.

These were announced Monday night by CB Governor Jose L. Cuisia Jr. at the launching of the Bankers Association of the Philippines-initiated Philippine dealing system where he also raised hopes about the implementation of a full foreign exchange decontrol policy within the next three months.

"There will very likely be a 100 percent deregulation within the next three months," Cuisia said, adding that the Monetary Board is now in the process of reviewing the remaining regulations to be liberalized.

Cuisia said the free use of SFCDA funds is expected to further improve the competitiveness of the country's exporters compared to their counterparts in neighboring countries.

As per the CB approval, Cuisia said export traders would now be allowed to use their retained dollar earnings for any purpose "with the end in view of ensuring more efficient utilization of such resources."

Since January, exporters have been allowed to retain up to 40 percent of their export receipts in SFCDAs with any authorized agent bank. The increased limit represented a substantial jump from the previous level of only 2 percent.

Under CB Circular No. 1319, however, the CB limited the utilization of the SFCDA funds to about 10 foreign exchange obligation items of exporters. These included the importation of machinery, components and spare parts as well as raw materials needed for export production; commissions to agents abroad; CB-approved claims of buyers abroad for rebates, discounts or refunds; freight and insurance costs; licensing fees, supervision and survey fees; travel funds; advertising and other promotional expenses incurred abroad; and interest payments on and amortization of CB-registered foreign loans.

The exporters were also subjected to strict CB audit of SFCDA fund utilization under the same circular.

But Cuisia said the decision to scrap the list payments is meant to perk up activity in the exports industry, considered to be the largest source of foreign exchange in the economy.

"This move is expected to improve the competitiveness of the country's export traders vis-a-vis their counterparts in the neighboring ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) economies, such as Indonesia and Malaysia where exporters are allowed the free use of their foreign exchange earnings," he said.

Cuisia said the privilege to avail of loans from the FCDUs of banks without prior CB approval would be expanded to include service exporters, who would now be granted FCDU loans up to 70 percent of their expected foreign exchange receipts to fund their peso requirements.

Proceeds from the FCDU loans through a dollar-based credit facility administered by the CB can be availed of either in pesos through the sale of the foreign exchange to the lending commercial bank to pay local costs, or directly in foreign exchange to pay the import costs of machinery, spare parts or raw materials to be used in export production.

The maximum loanable amount is 70 percent of their export irrevocable letters of credit, purchase order or sales contracts. Payments for the FCDU loans are to be deducted directly from the dollar proceeds of export shipments of the borrower.

Cuisia said the implementing guidelines for the relaxed rules are being finalized by the CB in the form of a circular.

Foreign Debt To Reach $30.9 Billion

HK0804031892 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 8 Apr 92 pp 1, 5

[By Gertrudes M. Chavez]

[Excerpt] The country's foreign debt is projected to hit $30.9 billion by end-1992, inclusive of the effects of the commercial bank debt reduction package, official estimates from the Finance Department show.

However, in real terms (adjusted to 1985 prices), the end-1992 foreign debt is equivalent to only $23.8 billion.

Finance Undersecretary Romeo L. Bernardo noted that while external liabilities have increased in absolute amounts since 1985, the real value has actually been declining.

This can be traced to the fact that the nominal value of Philippine foreign debt has been increasing at a much slower pace than the U.S. inflation rate, the Finance official explained. The growth in liabilities has been partially stemmed by Government's implementation of various debt-reduction schemes. [passage omitted]

Air Traffic Controller Strike Causes Problems

Flights Halted

HK0404072992 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 4 Apr 92

[Text] Flights from Manila, including domestic flights to Davao, Cagayan de Oro, Dumaguete, Zamboanga, Iloilo, Bacolod, Kalibo, Aklan, Dipolog and Tamlag have been suspended, while domestic flights to Catarman, Calbayog, Naga and Virac are on hold. A report received by DZXL from RMN-DYRI, Iloilo city, stated that 11 air traffic controllers there have joined the strike in sympathy for air traffic control members who are presently on strike in Metro Manila.

Government Threatens Dismissal

HK0604134892 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 1100 GMT 6 Apr 92

[By Dick Synchongo]

[Text] Malacanang has ordered Secretary Pete Nicomedes Prado of the Department of Transportation and Communications to dismiss striking air traffic controllers if they refuse to return to work. Malacanang issued this directive along with a rejection of a demand for the privatization of air traffic services made by the air traffic controllers. This demand by air traffic controllers would mean a salary of 1 million Philippine pesos for each member of the Air Traffic Controller's Cooperative.

At the same time, Executive Secretary Franklin Drilon assured the public that incoming and outgoing flights at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and at the country's various domestic airports remain safe, except for those at Iloilo, Dumaguete, and Butuan Airports. Malacanang also assured the public that the government is trying its best to normalize operation at these airports within the next two days.

Manila Airport Radar Center Closes

HK0704090292 Manila DZXL Radio Mindanao Network in Tagalog 0700 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] The Radar Approach Center of the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Air Transportation Office has been closed since 1200 [0400 GMT] today because of a lack of personnel to man the facility.

Meanwhile, it can be recalled that the air traffic controllers control three important facilities, including the Radar Approach Center. As a result, some international airlines were forced to suspend flights to and from the Philippines to not endanger their passengers' lives. These companies are Japan Airlines, Thai Airways, Singapore Airlines, and Kuwaiti Airlines.

Normal Operations Resume

HK0704111592 Quezon City Radyo ng Bayan in Tagalog 1000 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Secretary Pete Nicomedes Prado of the Department of Transportation and Communication [DOTC] has announced the normalization of operations at the country's various airports.

Here is Jim Belosano with the details:

[Begin Belosano recording] Secretary Prado visited the Ninoy Aquino International Airport and said that operations have returned to normal. He added that a new group of air traffic controllers were dispatched to the country's various airports. He said that his office, in its effort to supplement its present contingency measures, continues to look for experienced air traffic controllers and is considering the possibility of using foreign technical assistance.

The DOTC has also recommended filing criminal charges by the Department of Justice against the leaders of the air traffic controllers association who were responsible for spreading false reports on the air traffic situation. [end recording]

Aquino on Ramos, Cojuangco, Defensor Candidacies

HK0604123292 Manila Manila Broadcasting Company DZRH in Tagalog 0900 GMT 6 Apr 92

[By Dick Synchongco]

[Text] President Corazon Aquino said today that she will not attend the series of political campaigns which Fidel Ramos, Epifanio de los Santos Avenue's Strength-National Union of Christian Democrats' [Lakas-NUCD] presidential candidate, is scheduled to conduct in the Ilocos region. She indicated this in a statement she made in response to reporter's queries about why she did not accompany the former defense chief on his Ilocos and La Union campaign trail. She said that Ramos is capable of handling his own campaign in the Ilocos region since he hails from the north.

The president also showed no concern over reports that the Church of Christ may support Eduardo Danding Cojuangco. She said people are entitled to make their choices known during the election regardless of their religion.

Regarding the request of senatorial candidate Manuel Morato, Lakas-NUCD, that the psychiatric records of Miriam Defensor Santiago be made available to the public, the president said that this issue is up to the candidate involved.

Police To Protect Campaigning Candidates

HK0704031892 Manila BUSINESS WORLD in English 7 Apr 92 p 12

[Text] Candidates who wish to campaign inside rebel-influenced municipalities should not pay the New People's Army "permit to campaign" fee but coordinate with local police commanders who will provide them ample "area security."

The Philippine National Police (PNP) has started its troops redeployment to some 302 election "hot spots" to reinforce local police forces in averting any violence "before, during and after the election day," PNP deputy director general Gerardo Flores said in an interview.

He said the PNP high command has already directed regional and provincial units to provide "area security" to candidates upon the latter's request.

"The area security will not violate any Comelec [Commission on Elections] resolution as it will not entail the augmentation of close-in security personnel assigned to a candidate, but rather the police will just 'sanitize' the area of armed communists," he explained.

The PNP recently disclosed that the NPA is demanding as much as P200,000 [Philippine pesos] for every presidential aspirant for "unhampered access" inside guerrilla zones.

Deputy director general Flores identified the areas where the rebels may demand such fee as Northeastern Luzon, Bicol, Mindoro, Samar, Leyte and Northeastern Mindanao.

As for the redeployment of troops, he said the different regional and provincial commanders have been given the permission to deploy troops in areas perceived as "hotly contested."

He cannot pinpoint which areas will be affected by the redeployment, but said this will be under the discretion of the local police.

"The move will be more of a preventive operation," he added. The deployment is opposite to PNP's earlier position of "reactive operations," as in what they did after the assassination of Ternate Mayor Octavio Velasco.

Meanwhile, Criminal Investigation Service Command director Vicente Vinarao assured relatives of the five suspects in the Velasco killing they will be treated fairly and accorded a fair trial if they surrender.

He denied there was a shoot-to-kill order against them.

He added that he is expecting some "headway" in the surrender negotiation by Friday this week.

Priorities in Combating Communists Discussed

HK0604052392 Manila MANILA BULLETIN in English 4 Apr 92 pp 1, 19

[By Owen Masaganda]

[Text] Camp Aquino, Tarlac—Gen. Lisandro Abadia, Armed Forces (AFP) chief of staff, told military men of the Northern Luzon Command (Nolcom) that to attain strategic victory over communist insurgency, three major areas of concerns must be addressed with greater vigor.

The areas of concern are: development of the Marag Valley in Cagayan and Kalinga Apayao into a pilot area; concentration of counterinsurgency (Coin) tactical efforts in the Cordilleras to destroy New People's Army (NPA) strongholds, and to regain the entire area from the insurgents control.

Abadia also told his officers and men to be vigilant to prevent what happened in Tuguegarao, Cagayan. Communist terrorists launched a "summer offensive" in retaliation from massive operation of the AFP and Philippine National Police (PNP) in Marag Valley. Scores of rebels were killed, wounded, and captured. Three PAF helicopter gunships were damaged by the NPA.

"This should not happen again," he said.

Abadia was here yesterday as guest of honor and speaker during the 4th anniversary of the Nolcom.

The AFP chief of staff also commended Brig. Gen. Ernesto B. Calupig, Nolcom chief, for his excellent accomplishments in 1991. He decorated and awarded some officers and men of the command, its civilian employees, PNP officers, members of the judiciary, civil officials, and some media members. Efren Molina of Bulletin-Tempo was an awardee.

Calupi, in his speech, asked nolcom men to double their effort in order that they will reach the goal and "pin down the enemies of democracy."

Thailand

Suchinda Makes Statement After Accepting Post

BK0704140692 Bangkok Radio Thailand Network in Thai 1200 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Statement by newly appointed Prime Minister General Suchinda Khraprayun after accepting the royal command on his appointment—recorded]

[Text] Your Majesty, per your kind appointment of myself as the 19th prime minister, my wife and I are thoroughly grateful. I wish to pledge that I will be loyal and provide safety to you and the Chakri dynasty with my life and will conduct my duties with honesty for the benefit of the country and the people at large and in the process will not mind the selfish interest of anyone or any group in order to safeguard the institution of the nation and the throne.

Answers Queries on Planned Policies

BK0704163192 Bangkok Army Television Channel 5 in Thai 1230 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Interview with newly-appointed Prime Minister Suchinda Khraprayun by unidentified reporters in the front yard of Suchinda's residence in Bangkok on 7 April—recorded; first paragraph is announcer's introduction]

[Text] Army Commander and Supreme Commander General Suchinda Khraprayun has expressed confidence in carrying out the duties of the prime minister to the best of his ability.

[Question indistinct]

[Suchinda] Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun phoned not long ago to inform me that the proposed appointment of Air Chief Marshal [ACM] Kaset Rotchananin has passed the step involving the prime minister, but I did not ask him when the royal appointment will take place. The proposed appointment of the Army commander has not reached the prime minister. I do not know why. But it is certain that the next Army commander will be General Itsaraphong Nunphakdi.

[Question indistinct]

[Suchinda] ACM Kaset will hold two posts concurrently—the supreme commander and Air Force commander posts.

[First reporter] What will be your international policy?

[Suchinda] It is a normal policy, which is to try to create good relations with all countries and to put our country in a position that is respected and honored by other countries.

[Question indistinct]

[Suchinda] There have been no discussions about the composition of the government.

[First reporter] As the prime minister, what will be your principles concerning the political parties joining the government?

[Suchinda] That issue will definitely be discussed, possibly tomorrow. There will be a meeting with the parties concerned.

[First reporter] What will be the conditions for selecting Cabinet ministers?

[Suchinda] Certainly there must be conditions. But I cannot tell you now what they will be because that would be inappropriate.

[Second reporter] Will the people affected by the assets confiscation order be included in the Cabinet?

[Suchinda] Let me be brief. Every prime minister wants Cabinet ministers who enjoy the greatest possible respect of the people. Therefore it is the duty of every prime minister to try to achieve this.

[Second reporter] Would the image of the government be affected if the people who had their assets confiscated became Cabinet ministers?

[Suchinda] We will have to reach some kind of understanding with the people concerned, because the politicians who had assets confiscated have reasoned that they have been elected and thus have the confidence of their constituencies. Second, the confiscation issue has not reached the final stage; the court has not made a ruling. We will have to reconsider this matter for suitability.

[First reporter] How long will it take to form a government?

[Suchinda] I will try to do it as quickly as possible, but I do not know how soon.

[Second reporter] How will understanding be reached with the students who oppose a neutral prime minister?

[Suchinda] Efforts will have to be made to achieve understanding. I do not regard students' opposition as a serious matter because this group of students is always actively opposing things. But I am concerned about political parties that join this opposition.

The fact is that the stipulation in the Constitution permits a neutral person or an elected member of Parliament to become prime minister. But the contest has been fought out by the political parties and the majority has proposed me as prime minister. Therefore the contest outside parliament should end. Otherwise, things of this nature will happen all the time. That is, if you lose a vote in the parliament you can take it outside parliament. That is not appropriate.

The majority of the parties which make up this government declared during their election campaigns that they do not mind having a neutral person as prime minister. Since they have won the most seats in the House, we must consider them to be representing the majority of the nation's people.

[Second reporter] Have you heard the remark that the government with you as prime minister will not last?

[Suchinda] We will have to wait and see. I cannot say whether I will last or not. Every government wants to remain in office as long as possible.

[First reporter] Is it possible that some of the politicians whose assets were confiscated will join your Cabinet?

[Suchinda] I cannot answer that question now.

[First reporter] Do you think everything will proceed smoothly? Have you any worries?

[Suchinda] No, I do not

[First reporter] What will be your priorities as prime minister?

[Suchinda] For the moment it will be the drought affecting the people throughout the country. That is because the drought is very severe this year. Therefore, the first thing the government must do is remedy the drought problem plaguing the people. The second issue is the living conditions of the people in the rural areas. The third issue is the traffic problems in Bangkok.

[Third reporter] Now that you have been appointed prime minister, will you invite Narong Wongwan into the Cabinet?

[Suchinda] I cannot answer this question at this time because I have not seen Narong and thus do not know what his position is. But because he is the leader of the Samakkhi Tham Party, which holds the greatest number of seats, he should have certain rights to contribute to the formation of the government. But this is up to Narong—what he wants in his position as leader of the biggest party in parliament.

[Third reporter] Narong did not explain to you why he did not accept the post of prime minister, did he?

[Suchinda] I have met with neither Narong nor Banhan.

[Third reporter] Narong's case related to narcotics and has not been cleared up. Can he join the Cabinet?

[Suchinda] I said already that I cannot answer that question. I feel that what the United States said is that it refused to issue him a visa, but it did not say what Narong's flaw or guilt was. It merely cited a law. In Thailand, principally speaking, Narong is considered innocent because he has not been sentenced by any court and the U.S. allegation does not specify what he is guilty of. It is within the authority of the U.S. to prohibit entry to anyone. In the same way, Thailand can ban anyone from entry.

[Third reporter] Will this government contact the United States to clarify the matter?

[Suchinda] I am not sure whether there is a need for this. That is because this issue is a minor matter, and if it is not necessary we will not pursue it but would rather pursue other matters that are more important to the country. [break in recording, apparently due to editing]

[Suchinda] Regardless of the criticism I may face in parliament, I will now have to bear the fact that I have decided to take this post.

[Second reporter] Your Army colleagues once said that they did not want to see you become the target of criticism. Can you comment?

[Suchinda] It is a matter of necessity. If I regarded myself first I would not have accepted the post of prime minister.

[First reporter] How long will you be in the prime minister's post?

[Suchinda] I cannot answer that. It depends on the situation. If in one month the members of parliament do not want me, I will have to leave. Therefore, I cannot say how long I will remain in the post.

[Second reporter] Will you run for a parliamentary seat if one becomes vacant?

[Suchinda] No, I will never enter the political circle by contesting an election. This is my firm intention.

[First reporter] Can you give the reasons for accepting the post?

[Suchinda] I mentioned this issue earlier. That is, I felt that the political situation became stalemated, which could have caused damage. Another reason is that I believe that I have sufficent confidence from foreign countries to accept the post of prime minister.

[Second reporter] How long ago did you decide to accept the post of prime minister?

[Suchinda] I made a decision only a couple of days ago. [break in recording]

[Suchinda] Five parties.

[Second reporter] Is that all, just five parties?

[Suchinda] That is all at this time.

[Third reporter] Do you look for an opportunity to bring in more parties?

[Suchinda] I am not a political expert, but I believe that it is better that support in parliament is not overwhelming because that will cause the government to be more careful and perform with care, honesty, and thoroughness. If the government does controversial things, it could easily be toppled by the opposition. This is a good thing.

[Second reporter] How many ministries do you feel you must control yourself?

[Suchinda] I have not thought of that. I want to concentrate on economic matters. I feel we should have professionals to assist the government on economic matters so the country will have good economic planning.

[Second reporter] Did you accept the post of premier because you felt the political party leaders were unsuitable?

[Suchinda] I do not consider political party leaders to be unsuitable. The issue is that the political parties could not agree on who should become prime minister after Narong Wongwan's name was proposed and then the question about him arose. This caused a delay in formation of the government which could have impacted on the economy. That is what drove me to make the decision.

[First reporter] Are senior military officers going to control major ministries such as the Interior and Defense Ministries?

[Suchinda] I don't know, because I have not discussed the issue with any of the leaders of the political parties joining the government.

[First reporter] There reportedly will be a meeting tomorrow; will it involve more discussions?

[Suchinda] I don't know yet, but I think there will be a meeting. That is enough for now.

[Second reporter] Do you think in the future Thailand will have more prime ministers who come from outside the parliament?

[Suchinda] It has to do with political parties and politicians working together to put our politics in the right direction. That is the duty of politicians and political parties.

[First reporter] Where do you think the prime minister should be selected from?

[Suchinda] As long as the Constitution permits, a prime minister can be selected from the parliament or outside. Until the Constitution stipulates that the prime minister must be a member of parliament, then the issue is clear.

House Speaker Inactive in Nomination Process

BK0804030192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Apr 92 p A4

[Text] House Speaker Athit Urairat apparently did not play any role in the appointment of Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Kraphrayun as prime minister yesterday.

Athit's inactivity in the crucial democratic process raised doubts about the integrity of the newly-elected House of Representatives and the military junta's pledge to eliminate what it called "parliamentary dictatorship".

The Constitution empowers the House speaker to nominate the prime minister who is formally appointed by the King. But the charter's provisional section allows National Peacekeeping Council [NPKC] Chairman, Sunthon Khongsomphong to make the nomination of the first post-election Prime Minister.

Sunthon had said he would work out the nomination with the House speaker.

Athit said he had submitted to Sunthon the five-party majority alliance's agreement to name Samakkhi Tham Party leader Narong Wongwan as new prime minister.

The alliance, which comprises the Samakkhit Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon parties, announced on Sunday it would back Suchinda instead of Narong who has been embroiled in drug trafficking allegations.

But Athit said the alliance had not officially withdrawn its written statement backing Narong which was submitted to him, nor had it officially stated its support for Suchinda.

"All I have is the alliance's proposal to nominate Narong and I have forwarded it to the NPKC chairman," Athit said. He also said that although the Constitution's provisional section empowers Sunthon to present the nomination to the King, the House speaker should be consulted on the matter.

"Whatever is stated in the provisional section, there is no ban on the exercising of the House speaker's power concerning the appointment of prime minister," Athit said.

The provisional section states the NPKC's power, given under the military-adopted interim Constitution, will remain intact until a Cabinet is sworn in after the general election.

Articles 21 and 23 of the interim charter empower the NPKC chairman to nominate the prime minister and countersign His Majesty the King's endorsement of the nomination.

Critics lashed out at what they dubbed the murky process from which Suchinda emerged a premiership nominee.

The nomination should have been made by the House of Representatives in a session that allowed all MPs to decide whether to accept Suchinda, they said.

"If the House speaker nominated one man and the NPKC chairman proposed another, we would have to prepare for a major problem in the further," Democrat leader Chuan Likphai said before Athit admitted he had proposed Narong's tentative nomination to Sunthon.

Air Force Chief Defends Nomination of Suchinda

BK0804022892 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Apr 92 p 3

[Text] Air Force Commander-in-Chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin yesterday defended the nomination of Supreme Commander and Army Commander and Army Commander-in-Chief Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as new prime minister.

At Don Muang Airport, the air force chief told reporters that he didn't think Gen Suchinda had broken his word on not accepting the premiership.

"Su (Gen Suchinda) and myself had announced that we would not accept the prime minister's post. But when the parties chose any individual to be prime minister, they could do so because they have the right to make the choice if that means it will bring about economic and political stability. It is not a matter of breaking one's promise," he explained.

Insisting that he was not involved in selection of the prime minister, ACM Kaset said he didn't know who would finally be nominated as prime minister.

He added that personally Gen Suchinda had the capability to be prime minister. "But it all depends on the political parties and who they would like to choose."

Asked why he didn't accept the premiership himself, the air force chief said he would like the issue to proceed in accordance with democratic prodecure. "If the parties want Su (Gen Suchinda), it is their business," he continued.

He said, too, that he didn't know if he would be appointed supreme commander in addition to being air force chief.

He went on to say that he didn't think protests against Gen Suchinda and demonstrations in support of the army chief would flare up into a confrontation between the two opposing factions.

Business Groups React 'Cautiously' To Nomination

BK0804023992 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Apr 92 p 17, 26

[Text] Reactions in the Bangkok business community were mixed and largely cautious yesterday following the appointment of General Suchinda Khraprayun as Prime Minister.

Some leading figures openly welcomed his appointment, while the main concern of others was that the political deadlock of the past fortnight had ended. A few expressed private opposition to the appointment of a non-elected Prime Minister but none of these critics were prepared to be quoted.

In general bankers preferred to concentrate on the question of who will take the finance and other economic portfolios and what the new Government's economic policy will be.

With a few exceptions, there was little of the personal acclaim that accompanied last year's appointment of Anan Panyarachun, who was up to that moment chairman of Saha Union and president of the Federation of Thai Industries [FTI].

Several said the Government should continue with the liberalisation policies of the Anan Government.

The most glowing praise for Gen Suchinda came from Chalieo Suwannakitti, secretary general of the Thai Chamber of Commerce, and Dr Chokchai Aksaranan, Mr Anan's successor as FTI president.

Mr Chalieo described Gen Suchinda as a broad-minded "gentleman" with clout who will provide the country with security. This will be beneficial to the economy, he said.

Dr Chokchai said Gen Suchinda kept himself up-to-date on economic issues and therefore had a good grasp of the subject. The new Prime Minister would also be on good terms with the international community because he had served as military attache in Washington and kept in contact with foreigners while in Bangkok, the FTI president said.

He urged the new Government to continue with the Joint Public-Private Sector Coordinating Committee because, he said, the committee had successfully helped the two sectors work together to solve their problems from many years.

Bank Presidents Banthun Lamsam of the Thai Farmers Bank, Thianchai Siwichi of Krung Thai Bank, and Phakon Thawisin of Thai Danu Bank, and Dr Olan Chaiprawat, senior executive vice president of Siam Commercial Bank, placed less emphasis on the person appointed to be Prime Minister.

They were more concerned about who the other members of the Cabinet would be, particularly the finance minister, and what the economic policy would be.

Dr Olan said the confidence of foreign investors would take time to recover. Mr Banthun said foreign investors were more likely to be interested in stability and the return on investment than on political developments, unlike Thai investors. Mr Thianchai predicted that investment would recover naturally in the second half of the year.

Mr Phakon said he believed the new Government would continue to serve business interests, maintain economic stability—avoiding inflation, current account and debt problems—and continue with the Anan Government's liberalisation policies. Gen Suchinda would be able to do this with the assistance of his many advisers, Mr Pakon said.

The positive side of Gen Suchinda's appointment was the end of the "political vacuum", Mr Pakon added.

Thai Hotels Association president Chatuphon Sihanatkathakun supported the appointment of the new Prime Minister reasoning that it created a brighter picture of Thai politics following weeks of confusion about who would be appointed.

The confusion, he said, benefited no party, however the new Government under Gen Suchinda will have to have the image of being clean and capable.

"The Government must have a clear policy toward various problems Thailand faces. In addition, the Government must not have the (same) image as the Government that was overthrown by the coup," he said.

He placed top priority on infrastructure development because bottlenecks have hurt the Thai economy.

Mr Chatuphon added that the Government should also take more serious action to solve the problems of poverty, the environment and traffic congestion.

"If possible, I hope the new minister responsible for tourism will be the one with high capability and knows how to improve the poor image concerning AIDS in Thailand," he said.

Meanwhile, analysts predicted that the stock market will react favourably to Gen Suchinda's appointment when it opens today.

The immediate reaction yesterday when the news of Gen Suchinda's likely appointment spread was a 5.77-point rise in the SET [Stock Exchange of Thailand] index of share prices to 823.39, with relatively strong total trading value of 5,621.81 million baht.

First Asia Securities Ltd general manager Mark Greenwood forecast that following yesterday afternoon's official announcement, the market would continue to rise strongly today.

Swiss Bank Corp chief market strategist Maris Tarab agreed. Investors tend to believe that under the leadership of Gen Suchinda, local politics will be stable, he said.

Mr Greenwood said that the Thai market had reacted positively once before, prior to the March 22 general election, when rumours spread in the market that Gen Suchinda was likely to be appointed new Prime Minister.

But worries remain about the possibility of protest demonstrations against the new prime minister, Mr Greenwood said.

Although investors might react favourably to the appointment, if the trading volume is thin, concern about protests, together with technical corrections, could cause the index to plunge some 50-60 points, he said.

He went on to suggest that investors buy into such fundamental stocks as banks if the market made a correction.

Mr Maris said the rumoured appointment of Dr Suthi Singsane as Deputy Prime Minister in charge of economic affairs and Thawi Nunphakdi as the new Finance Minister could create stability for the local economy.

He also suggested investors buy into finance stocks because demand for credit is expected to be strong after the political dust has settled. Other attractive prospects include some property stocks as they are expected to benefit from the downward trend in interest rates and banking stocks as they are expected to benefit from new capital adequacy rules.

Suchinda Government Predicted To Last 4 Years

BK0804021092 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Apr 92 p 6

[Text] The composition of the new coalition government led by Gen Suchinda Khraprayun and including five political parties with 195 seats should be sufficient to see it through its four-year term.

Samakkhi Tham Party secretary-general Sqn Ldr [Squadron leader] Thiti Nakhonthap said yesterday the strength of the coalition ruled out the possibility of the New Aspiration Party being included in the new government.

"We have been united from the beginning and will join together to form the new government," said Sqn Ldr Thiti referring to the Samakkhi Tham, Chat Thai, Social Action, Prachakon Thai and Ratsadon parties.

"Without the unity among the five party leader, there was the possibility that the political scenario might not have turned out as it is today.

"There have been several attempts by the other side to break our alliance, but they failed," he said.

Sqn Ldr Thiti, a close associate of senior National Peace-keeping council figures, said the new cabinet lineup should be completed within a week.

He also said there was the possibility that politicians charged with being unusually wealthy would be barred from holding ministerial posts.

Sqn Ldr Thiti said Samakkhi Tham had stood united behind party leader Narong Wongwan right till the last minute, but this had been ignored by NPKC chairman Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong who refused to nominate Mr Narong for the prime ministership.

"His (Mr Narong's) political credibility had been destroyed by biased local press reports. Our party was trying to push for an elected MP to take the top administrative post, but it was politics that prevented him from assuming the post."

Sqn Ldr Thiti was confident though that Gen Suchinda, who has the respect of the Army, would be able to lead the government throughout its four year term.

"In a time of crisis, he has displayed his spirit by taking up the offer. I know that this was against his wishes, but he had no choice. We will give him our total support in helping administer the country effectively."

A number of Samakkhi Tham members elected in the Northeast plan meanwhile to ask Mr Narong to support Sqn Ldr Thiti for a ministerial post. Sqn Ldr Thiti did not contest the election.

"We are moving to push him into a ministerial post as he played a key role in building the strength of our party during the election," said one Nong Khai representative.

Sqn Ldr Thiti earlier said he would not seek a ministerial posting after the election.

Sqn Ldr Thiti was responsible for organising Samakkhi Tham's campaigns in the Northeast and South. The party won 33 seats in the Northeast and two in the southern most Muslim-dominated region.

Sqn Ldr Thiti is also said to have played a significant role in blocking attempts by the New Aspiration Party to have its leader Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut appointed prime minister.

Students, Others Protest Suchinda Nomination

BK0804014592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Apr 92 p A1, A2

[Text] About 1,000 students, academics and democracy advocates demonstrated at Thammasat University to protest against Gen Suchinda Khraprayun's appointment as premier as soon as the announcement was made yesterday afternoon.

The protesters said they were opposed to a prime minister who was not an elected member of parliament because that contradicted democratic principles and public opinion.

They called on Suchinda to step down as chief executive immediately.

About 50 protesters, chanting anti-Suchinda slogans later tried to reach Suchinda's official residence at Suan Run in a convoy of tuk-tuks. But they were barred by roadblocks manned by 50 policemen on Ratchasima Road about 9.30 pm.

The demonstrators dispersed peacefully shortly afterward.

"Suchinda's appointment is an attempt by the group of military officers who formed the National Peacekeeping Council to cling to power," said Withit Mantaphon, spokesman of the Campaign for Popular Democracy Committee, at Thammasat University earlier last night.

Withit, a Chulalongkon University law professor, charged that the military council had manipulated the political situation, including the promulgation of an "undemocratic" Constitution, to pave the way to the premiership for Suchinda.

The NPKC toppled the democratically elected Chatchai administration in a bloodless coup last February.

He also reminded Suchinda of the promise he made last November that he would not take the prime ministership even if it was offered to him.

The committee would present a letter to Suchinda calling for his immediate resignation today, according to the spokesman.

"The protest against Suchinda's appointment does not constitute lese majeste because the demonstrators are opposing the principle of a prime minister who was not a member of the House of Representatives," Withit said. "The appointee must evaluate his own worth."

Aphichai Phanthasen, a lecturer in Thammasat University's Faculty of Economics, said at the rally last night he did not consider Suchinda's leadership worth opposing because he believed it would not last long.

"Suchinda will find it difficult working with politicians rather than his military colleagues," Aphichai said.

The Thammasat University Students' Organization, in a statement issued yesterday after learning about Suchinda's appointment as the next prime minister, criticized the military for derailing democracy in order to preserve their personal interests.

TV Avoids Coverage of Protests

BK0804030592 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Apr 92 p A2

[Text] Demonstrations in support of Gen Suchinda Khraprayun as prime minister received a wide coverage by the military-controlled TV Channel 5 yesterday but none of the TV stations broadcast politicians' and students' protests against the appointment.

Channel 5 yesterday afternoon began regular broadcasts of demonstrations at the Army Auditorium by about 3,000 people supporting then-army chief Gen Suchinda as premier.

The pro-Suchinda demonstrations were shown every hour from 1 pm. The demonstrators, who were from Bangkok, Ayutthaya, Pathum Thani, Ratchaburi and Samut Prakan, had staged the rallies at the auditorium from 8.30 am.

They presented bouquets to Assistant Army Chief of Staff Lt Gen Yutthana Khamdi.

At the rally, two groups claiming to be from Ramkhamhaeng University submitted an open letter to a military official to show support for Gen Suchinda.

One of their representatives said it was not against democratic principles for Suchinda to assume the post of premier. He said the people elect MPs who, in turn, select the prime minister.

They said Suchinda is a qualified person who has devoted himself to working for the well-being of the Thai people.

People in Kanchanaburi, Ubon Ratchathani and Narathiwat provinces also held rallies in support of Suchinda becoming prime minister.

They said a government led by Suchinda would lead the country towards prosperity and stability.

About 500 demonstrators in Kanchanaburi submitted an open letter to provincial governor Narong Saengsuriyong at the City Hall after His Majesty the King gave his approval, appointing Suchinda prime minister.

In Ubon Ratchathani, about 100 people who staged a rally in front the City Hall carried placards which read, "We want Suchinda as the 19th prime minister" and "Let the person with clean hands be premier".

They also submitted a statement to deputy provincial governor Phathai Wichanpricha.

In Narathiwat, about 50 people led by a community leader rallied in front of the provincial city hall and handed a statement to deputy Narathiwat governor Sawat Kritratnan.

Editorials Comment on Suchinda's Premiership

Seen as 'Officially-Sanctioned Coup'

BK0804025792 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Apr 92 p A8

[Editorial: "Suchinda's Second Coup"]

[Text] With his acceptance of the premiership, Army chief Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun has achieved what amounts to an officially-sanctioned coup. Indeed, it may be more damaging to Thailand than the actual coup d'etat he led against the government of Gen Chatchai Chunhawan on Feb 23, 1991. For Suchinda has done what many in this country have feared would happen since the turbulent days of the 1970s—institutionalized military control of the country's parliamentary politics.

Suchinda has the backing of the military because of what he called his "big sacrifice". His resignation from the posts of army chief and supreme commander before assuming the premiership yesterday created precious opportunities for several senior military officers to rise to higher posts. Deputy army chief Gen Itsaraphong Nunphakdi, for one, is extremely grateful; he is Suchinda's designated successor in the Army.

The post of supreme commander has gone to air force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin, the senior-most among the active top commanders. This will boost ACM Kaset's clout at a time when there is speculation that some air force officers are putting subtle pressure on him to step down.

In other words, Suchinda's decision to accept the premiership seems to have been primarily influenced by the exigencies in the army and air force. Leading a new government being formed by the coalition on five promilitary parties was simply a "golden parachute" allowing Suchinda to bail out of the military. The desire to "end the political chaos" and to "serve the country and the throne" was secondary, if it was genuine at all.

As of last Monday, the five-party coalition was still in favour of nominating Samakkhi Tham party leader Narong Wongwan for the premiership, and had submitted its nomination of Narong to House Speaker Dr Athit Urairat. At the same time, ex-army chief Gen Chawalit Yongchaiyut, leader of the New Aspiration Party, was making a desperate attempt to try to convince Suchinda to give him a chance to form an alternative coalition.

How did Gen Sunthon Khongsomphong, chairman of the National Peacekeeping Council (NPKC), come to the decision to submit Suchinda's name to HM the King for appointment as the new premier? He certainly didn't follow the tradition of sounding out the opinions of party leaders in the House of Representatives. In fact, Sunthon's actions have shown just how little respect he and the other military leaders in the NPKC have for the elected representatives of the people or the outcome of the election.

Suchinda's rise to the premiership is blatantly undemocratic. The various political parties voted in by the people were not fully consulted on the choice of prime minister. The result is tantamount to a theft of the election outcome and a subversion of the people's aspirations.

Still, the political parties which finally opted for Suchinda are greatly to blame. The party leaders were all too ready to surrender the mandate of democratic rule, betray the trust of the people, and nominate Suchinda as premier. They didn't bother to try and find a new nominee after Narong got bogged down in a controversy arising from US suspicions that he was involved in international drug trafficking. Their only concern was to be part of the new government, at any cost.

With the support of the five parties' 195 votes in the 360 member House, Suchinda is now technically a constitutional premier. The 270 senators, who were all handpicked by the NPKC, will also back him—at least for the time being, pending further developments in the military power alignment.

Together, the senators and the government MPs constitue an overwhelming majority that can block all attempts at amending the undemocratic Constitution or censuring Suchinda will enjoy a "parliamentary dictatorship"—the very thing he and the other coup-makers used as an excuse to depose Chatchai and his Chat Thai Party over a year ago.

On top of this, we should remember Suchinda's primary justification for the coup: to stop corrupt politicians from "plundering the country" and to bring them to justice. Four of the five parties in the government coalition Suchinda will lead were part of the Chatchai administration. And some of those former ministers ruled "unusually wealthy" by the NPKC-appointed assets investigation committee are likely to be appointed ministers in the Suchinda Cabinet.

Given the damage they have done to Thai Democracy, it is hard to ignore the considerable hypocrisy of the leaders of the NPKC as they conveniently forget their justifications for the coup and back Suchinda as premier.

Suchinda is bound to face formidable obstacles in his premiership. Forget about ending corruption in political circles—the new premier will be too busy trying to maintain his military support. Even though Suchinda does enjoy the backing of the armed forces now, one should remember that two years ago Chawalit counted on the same support for him to rise to the premiership when he stepped down from the military. That support quickly diminished.

Suchinda will face the same problem as time goes by. In less than two years time, the new army chief, Gen Itsaraphong, will retire. Undoubtedly he will look for "golden parachute", just as Suchinda did. The end of Suchinda premiership will then be swift.

Suchinda and the five parties backing him richly deserve each other. But this country deserves a far more democratic and transparent process in picking our leader. This entire exercise has been simply too manipulative and questionable to be acceptable.

Doubts Suchinda Credibility

BK0804024592 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 8 Apr 92 p 4

[Editorial: "Political Throwback to a Bygone Age"]

[Text] When Gen Prem Tinsulanon was appointed to the premiership in 1980, the country's political system was in a state of flux. The preceding decade had seen tumultuous changes. These ranged from the historic popular uprising of October 1973 which ended an extended era of corrupt military dictatorship and ushered in a brief period of hectic experimentation with full-blown democracy, to the right wing backlash that culminated in the bloody military coup of October 1976. The political parties of that time had some genuine justification in supporting as their head an outsider like Gen Prem who was enjoying crucial support from influential quarters, including the then powerful Yong Turks officers.

Gen Prem subsequently turned out to be the right choice at the right time. The extended period of political stability under his leadership, derived not least from the backing of the armed forces, had made it possible for the Thai economic system to consolidate. Sharp price fluctuations and high deficits triggered by the second world oil shock of 1979 gradually gave way to economic stabilisation under a prudent management that emphasised stability more than sheer growth. Gen Prem's far from-colourful personality not withstanding, the political parties—and, perhaps more importantly, the Thai social system as a whole—had become more mature and pluralistic during his tenure.

But the Thailand of 1980-88 under Gen Prem's quasi-democracy" leadership has become part of history. As such it is a disappointing setback to see a strangely similar state of affairs being resurrected more than a decade later. Although their composition might differ, the same pattern of parties staking large claims in the House of Representatives and using that power to back Gen Prem in the past has now re-emerged as a practice of the present. Only this time they have thrown their support behind military chief Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun as the new prime minister. Once again, the new government is headed by a non-elected outsider, thus restoring the supposedly obsolete half-democracy system.

Perhaps the similarity ends there. The smiling faces that congratulated Gen Suchinda following his appointment yesterday appear to be in contrast with the aspirations of a broad section of the electorate which is evidently more politically-aware and sophisticated than the time Gen Prem came to power. The landslide victory of the Phalang Tham Party in Bangkok and sweeping gains by the Democrat Party in the southern provinces in last month's general election clearly demonstrated the voters' expectations. It was no coincidence that both parties managed to make their substantial electoral inroads by highlighting the issue of an elected prime minister as their priority platform.

If the electorate's expectations had been otherwise, it was probably prompted by their disillusionment with the other large parties that would now be forming the core of the new government. Talk over the past week to the effect that it might not be bad after all to have a non-elected prime minister who could ensure political stability only underscore the dismal failure of these parties to build grassroots support or win public trust. The universal saying that the voters deserve the government they vote for is flawed in the Thai context amid reports of vote buying on a grand scale—not to mention the complicated, patron-client system prevailing in the rural Thai countryside.

The onus finally rests on Gen Suchinda himself. Against repeated statements over the past year that he harboured no political ambitions—which culminated in his unequivocal declaration at the height of the constitutional crisis last November that neither he nor Air Force chief ACM [Air Chief Marshal] Kaset Rotchananin would accept the premiership—his acceptance of the political top post yesterday raises doubts about his own credibility. There is no question of constitutional legitimacy here since the Constitution allows a non-elected person to assume the premiership. What is relevant here is the question of political legitimacy and public acceptance. Whether it was deliberate or not, his move has lent credence to the long-held view among skeptics that he might have orchestrated political events since the February 1991 coup d'etat to further his own ambition rather than acting in the public interest as claimed.

It may still be recalled that the National Peace-keeping Council of which Gen Suchinda was the prime driving force had cited rampant corruption among the politicians as one of the main reasons to justify the coup. Ironically, as political events have developed, the general will now be heading a coalition government largely comprising the same the same bunch of politicians whom he had accused of being corrupt. It would be yet another serious let down if he were to succumb to pressures from the coalition partners and appoint any of those former ministers who were branded "unusually wealthy".

Suchinda Assailed for Accepting Post

BK0804085392 Bangkok KRUNGTHEP THURAKIT in Thai 8 Apr 92 p 1

["Page One Comment: No Dignity, Not Honorable"]

[Text] The picture of rows of Thai military officers flocking to praise the "sacrifice" of General Suchinda Khraprayun, the 19th prime minister, in accepting the prime minister's post certainly does not confer any dignity to the status that belongs to the nation's highest administration officer.

On the contrary, they signal the beginning of the tarnished and precarious nature of the democratic system. The democratic system, which was given a new facelift by the 22 March elections, has become a cloak that has enabled the person holding the supreme military power to step into the highest administration post.

Gen. Suchinda's march to premiership has been expected by the people since military officers toppled the elected government on 23 February 1991 and established themselves as the country's most powerful group—the National Peace-Keeping Council [NPKC]. The NPKC, or really the coup party, justified its overthrow of the previous government by claiming that it was full of corrupt politicians, exercised parliamentary dictatorship, interfered in the performance of bureaucrats particularly the Armed Forces, and distorted the case of attempted assassasination of senior officials.

In comparison, the reasons used to justify the coup are no different from the process in forming the new government under Gen. Suchinda. The only difference is the name of the prime minister and the political party which forms the core of the government—the Chat Thai and Samakkhi Tham Parties. It is common knowledge that the Samakkhi Tham Party was conceived by NPKC members.

There is no longer any need to emphasize that the prime minister should be an elected member of parliament. No litany of demands will accomplish that now. From the first moment he decided to accept the prime minister's post, Suchinda no longer commanded the dignity and respect of the Thai people or the international community.

The public has been told that Suchinda's acceptance of the premier's positon is an act of sacrifice for the country; this is very difficult to believe. We cannot accept his status that has changed from military leader to 19th prime minister because it was not achieved through the democratic process, but through illegitimate pressure by the power holding clique.

Therefore, the 19th prime minister has accepted his post amid disgrace and this acceptance has created concern for the country's future.

Anti-Military Alliance Protests Nomination

BK0804014192 Bangkok THE NATION in English 8 Apr 92 p A1, A2

[Text] The anti-military alliance made a desperate, last-minute attempt yesterday to block the nomination of Supreme Commander Gen Suchinda Khraphrayun as new prime minister.

A letter by the bloc protesting Suchinda's nomination was submitted to House Speaker Athit Urairat hours before a royal command was announced appointing the military chief the country's 19th chief executive.

The letter said the alliance's five rival parties which command a slim majority in the House of Representatives nominated Suchinda under "illegitimate" pressure.

"The five political parties nominated an outsider as prime minister because there had been illegitimate pressure from outside the democratic system," said the letter by the New Aspiration, Democrat, Phalang Tham and Solidarity parties.

"We will continue to fight alongside the people to gain a full parliamentary democracy," declared New Aspiration leader Chawalit Yongchaiyut, whose dream of becoming prime minister was shattered by Suchinda's appointment.

Chawalit, however, politely congratulated Suchinda on his appointment. "I wish him good luck," said Chawalit.

Democrat Party leader Chuan Likphai said those who backed Gen Suchinda should not cite the royal command to quash the opposition to his appointment. Suchinda ousted a royally appointed Prime Minister Chatchai Chunhawan in a coup last year, he noted.

"The fact of the royal endorsement is irrelevant if it is cited to justify the appointment. The last prime minister was also appointed under royal endorsement and he was in the end toppled by the coup," Chuan said.

Although Suchinda was already appointed prime minister, people who are against his appointment have the right to express their opinions on the matter, Chuan said.

Phalang Tham leader Chamlong Simuang said that with Suchinda as head of the new government, attempts to amend the new Constitution, which critics charge was drafted in favour of the military, will be more difficult.

Officials of the Democrat and Phalang Tham parties yesterday said the posters they have put up to oppose the appointment of a non-elected person as prime minister were removed by unidentified men wearing black clothes.

NAP officials, meanwhile, said the campaign boards they have erected for the Bangkok governor's election on April 19 were also removed by mistake by an unknown group of people who might have thought that they were meant to oppose the appointment of an outsider as premier.

Acting Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun, meanwhile, said he had telephoned Suchinda to congratulate him on the appointment. "I wished him success," Anan said.

"Now I will return to my ordinary life. My game is over."

SRV Deputy Premier Encourages Thai Investment

BK2503020392 Bangkok BANGKOK POST in English 25 Mar 92 p 15

[Text] Vietnam is seeking greater participation by Thai investors in its country, according to Deputy Prime Minister Phan Van Khai.

Thailand and Vietnam shared the same vision of increasing bilateral cooperation for the entire Southeast Asian region, he said in an interview with the BUSINESS POST.

In Bangkok to address a seminar on trade and investment opportunities in Vietnam, Mr Khai yesterday paid a courtesy call on caretaker Prime Minister Anan Panyarachun.

The Thai Premier visited Vietnam in January, reciprocating an official visit to Thailand last October by Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet.

Thai investment in Vietnam was still very small compared to other foreign investors, and now was the time for the two countries to work together to tap the full potential, Mr Khai said.

The volume of trade between the two countries has climbed remarkably over the past few years, with deficits on the Thai side, but Thai investors remained reluctant, citing lack of information and uncertainties in the Vietnamese system.

The agreement reached between Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet and Mr Anan to promote economic cooperation should help enhance greater contact, he added.

The two countries had also signed an agreement to promote and protect investment.

But other than the broad in-principle agreement on fisheries which envisaged substantial Thai investment to help modernise Vietnam's integrated fishery industry.

The fishery cooperation agreement was not signed during Mr Anan's tenure as planned earlier due to internal problems in Vietnam. Southern provinces had demanded a bigger say in the agreement, he said.

The draft agreement was initialled by then deputy Agriculture Minister At Taolanon and his Vietnamese counterpart Huynh Cong Hoa shortly before Premier Anan's trip. But Vietnam at the last minute asked that the signing ceremony be postponed.

Asked whether there was any progress on the fishery pact, Mr Khai said simply that "a favourable atmosphere" should be created in order to bring about the long-awaited conclusion of the pact.

The deputy Prime Minister cited the problems of overlapping water territories and continual encroachment of Thai vessels in Vietnamese waters as obstacles to finalise the agreement.

The countries needed to negotiate and settle the question of territorial waters, he said.

"We also need time to persuade our southern provinces... And until recently, the southern provinces have still seen violations by Thai fishing trawlers in our zone," he said.

Mr Khai said he hoped an agreement to cooperate on rice trade would enable Vietnam to earn more from rice exports to the world market.

Vietnam expected to produce a record 22-22.5 million tons of rice this year, compared to 21.7 million in 1991.

Exports were expected to reach more than 1.5 million tons in 1992, up from 1.1 million last year.

The memorandum of understanding on rice trade cooperation called for an end to price-cutting in the world market.

"We want very much to cooperate with Thailand in rice exports. Our officials have met to discuss how to maintain good price rates and cooperation," Mr Khai said.

Mr Khai said Vietnam hoped the new Thai government would continue to follow the policy of befriending neighbouring countries.

Meanwhile, duputy secretary-general of the Board of Investment (BOI) Chakchai Phanichaphat said the BoI was drafting a white paper on investment opportunities for thais in Vietnam.

The BoI had just established an Indochina unit headed by Krachang Phanthumnawin, he said.

The unit was assigned to collect information about Indochina and disseminate it to interested Thais.

Vietnam

Possibility of Cooperation With U.S. Viewed

BK0604102192 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 29 Mar 92

[Text] Recently Comrade Nguyen Van Tran and a delegation of the Vietnam Institute of Atomic Energy visited the United States to study U.S. science and technology. Following is an excerpt of his article entitled "My Impression on a Visit to the U.S. and the Possibility of Vietnam-U.S. Scientific-Economic Cooperation," published in the paper NHAN DAN [date not given].

Recently, we had the chance to visit the United States at the invitation of Iowa University and the (Arnok) Irradiation Center of Iowa, a large agro-scientific center of the United States. The purpose of our visit to the United States was to make a feasibility study on setting up in Vietnam an irradiation center for export food jointly sponsored by the (Icosline S.A.) Company and Iowa University.

Upon receiving a message from the UN Vietnamese Mission in New York on the visit, we had a strong impression on the possibility of initial Vietnam-U.S. cooperation in this field. Some scientists in the United States have engaged in research to use the U.S. irradiation high-tech facilities with Vietnamese agricultural products for joint venture in food export. For us, efforts by those scientists who work in the field of applying nuclear energy and those who work under the VE-8004 of the International Atomic

Energy Agency to transfer irradiation technology to Vietnam, are of great significance.

For Vietnam, irradiation technology is a new science. Setting up an irradiation center will provide Vietnamese scientists with an opportunity to study and learn from U.S. technology. Marketing is an opportunity for propagating and encouraging people to use irradiated food.

At the Iowa University, Vietnamese and U.S. scientists held four working sessions on irradiation technology to preserve food, agricultural processed products, and meat. They also discussed issues related to marketing and international joint venture and cooperation. These sessions have provided a better understanding for both sides in their efforts to expand scientific-technological and economic cooperation between Vietnam and the U.S.

Through the visit, we have also foreseen diversified forms of cooperation between the two countries. Our U.S. friends are ready to cooperate with Vietnam in the fields of training cadres, transfering technology, and improving production and services for mutual interest. However, difficulties are still prevalent because the U.S. Government has not normalized relations with Vietnam, and has maintained its embargo against our country. Moreover, we need a period of time to make preparation for large-scale cooperation projects. The U.S. side wants to carry out uniform large-scale projects, while the Vietnamese side prefers a step-by-step exploration before engaging in large-scale projects.

After leaving Iowa, we visited Philadelphia and worked at the office of the (Icosline S.A) which will build the irradiation center for export food in Vietnam. This company has established business relations with many countries. The company has also entered joint ventures with foreign nations in the production and selling of fast food, and in organizing group tours to Southeast Asia. The company recently set up an office called "Vietnam 2000" to accelerate joint ventures and cooperation with Vietnam. The company has planned to carry out such concrete projects as animal husbandry, crop planting, food irradiation, transportation, and import-export with foreign countries. Through initial contacts with the company, we have the impression that it is making great efforts to soon set up a joint venture with Vietnam and to promote tourism in our country.

The Vietnamese delegation also had a working session with Dr. (Zaroph) at his law office in Philadelphia and Mr. (Koll), president of the C.M. Company, a major U.S. hotel construction commpany; and made contact with the Orient Travel Company, a tour company specializing in organizing tours to Southeast Asia. These companies have formulated plans to do business with and invest in Vietnam. They have expressed the wish to visit Vietnam to make feasibility studies for investment in our country, especially when the U.S. Government lifts its embargo against Vietnam.

First Vice-Premier Receives French Delegation

BK0704162692 Hanoi VNA in English 1542 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Hanoi VNA April 7—First Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers Phan Van Khai received in Hanoi yesterday afternoon a delegation of the French National Council of Employers (CNPF) led by Mr. Andre Ross, chairman of the Vietnam Committee of the CNPF International.

The French delegation has been in Vietnam from April 5 for a second visit to inquire into the possibilities of investment and cooperation in Vietnam. The first visit was made in 1989.

The first vice-chairman welcomed the French delegation's Vietnam visit as a new step of development in the economic and trade relations between Vietnam and France. He informed the French guests of Vietnam's initial achievements in the renovation process, its main orientations for socio-economic development and investment priorities from now to the year 2000. He said that the political stability, the increasingly perfect policies, the great natural and manpower resources in Vietnam have created a favourable environment for foreign investors.

Answering questions by some members of the French delegation, Phan Van Khai made known that the revised Constitution to be adopted by the current 11th National Assembly session shed light on Vietnam's persistent policy on the development of a multi-sector economy, on private ownership, and on recognition of citizens' legal prosperty and businesses, and Vietnam's policy towards foreign businessmen including the non-nationalization of foreigners' property.

For his part, Chairman Andre Ross expressed French businessmen's willingness to contribute to Vietnam's socio-economic development.

Also present at the reception was French Ambassador to Vietnam Claude Blanchemaison.

The French delegation met with Mr. Dang Hoi Xuan, chairman of the Vietnam State Committee for Cooperation and Investment; Mr. Mai Ky, vice-chairman of the State Planning Commission; and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry, the Ministry of Finance and the State Bank.

So far, France has had 27 investment projects in Vietnam with a total capital of USD 280 million.

Before its departure for Ho Chi Minh City, the French delegation held a press conference here this evening.

Significance of French Assistance, Ties Analyzed

BK0804075092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam in English 1000 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Station Commentary on the growing ties between Vietnam and France]

[Text] Counted alone, the two-million franc aid package [from France] is still modest. However, in recent times, France has continually sent economic aid to help Vietnam in national construction and development. Vietnam is one of the first countries to receive supplies from France in the areas of science, technology, and culture.

Late last year, during his official visit to Vietnam, French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas committed a continuation of assistance to Vietnam in order to win a worthy position in the international arena. He promised to reserve Vietnam a 42-million-franc aid package for cultural development.

France was the first to offer to help Vietnam with funds to cover arrears to international financial organizations. The French state minister, during his visit to Vietnam early this year, said France would lend Vietnam 400 million francs.

France now outnumbers other Western nations in the number of its delegations to Vietnam probing cooperation and investment possibilities between the two countries. Many French investment projects in Vietnam have proven to be very effective. French assistance is of great significance to Vietnam's Doi Moi renovation.

Vietnam desires further friendship and cooperation between the two governments and people.

Civil Aviation Cooperation With Malaysia Noted

BK0704124592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 2 Apr 92

[Report by Tieu Lien on the "Vietnamese-Malaysian relations of cooperation on civil aviation"—portions recorded]

[Summary] "Vietnamese-Malaysian economic relations have developed in various domains, including civil aviation. Since 1990 the Governments of Vietnam and Malaysia have authorized the two countries' civil aviation sectors to bilaterally cooperate in opening the Kuala Lumpur-Ho Chi Minh City flight route.

"This flight route has helped spur the two countries' economic relations. Malaysian investors and businessmen have had a chance to come and invest in Vietnam in the area of oil and gas and the trading of farm produce. In addition, this has also facilitated the travel to Vietnam of tourists and overseas Vietnamese."

A resident Malaysian airlines representative in Vietnam said: "Now there are six flights weekly between Ho Chi Minh City and Kuala Lumpur, using a fleet of Boeing 737-400 jets, each with a 145-seat capacity. During the past festive occasions all flights were fully booked. Normally, 95 percent of the seats on these flights are sold out. The presence of Malaysia Airlines in various countries in Europe, America, and Africa has created favorable conditions for increasing the number of passengers travelling to Vietnam via the Kuala Lumpur-Ho Chi Minh City flight route."

Appraising the efficiency of the joint operation of this flight route, Comrade Le Duc Tu, deputy director general of the Vietnam Airline Company, said:

[Begin Le Duc Tu recording] As Vietnam Airlines has not expanded its operations to those countries with which we do not have relations, the cooperation with Malaysia in this field is mutually beneficial and through it we can attract more passengers. After deducting expenses incurred in the operation of this flight route, all the profits earned have been divided into two. Admittedly, previous unilateral operations of Vietnam Airlines were not so effective because of fierce competition. Moreover, the airplanes used by Vietnam are no match for those of our friends—Malaysia. Under this cooperation, friends are equally responsible for picking up passengers both for us and for themselves. The operation of this flight route has now become more profitable. [end recording]

To meet requirements for increased Vietnamese economic cooperation with other countries in the region, the governments of the two countries have authorized Malaysian Airlines to open another flight route linking Kuala Lumpur with Hanoi.

"At noon on 31 March, the maiden flight of Malaysian Airlines landed at Noi Bai Airport, carrying a delegation of Malaysian Government officials and businessmen led by Transport Minister Ling Liong Sik together with a large number of tourists."

Amid a warm welcome given by the Vietnamese Ministry of Communications and Transportation and by the Vietnamese civil aviation sector, His Excellency Minister Ling Liong Sik expressed gratitude at the honor of being aboard the maiden flight linking Kuala Lumpur with Hanoi. He said:

[Begin Ling Liong Sik recording] "Our two prime ministers, namely Mr. Vo Van Kiet and Dr. Mahathir, have met and made a very firm decision that our two countries and our two peoples should increase and strengthen their cooperation. That is why our delegation has been here today. With the vigorous growth of the Malaysian civil aviation sector, we can help you, friends, in the areas of air navigation, flight control, aircraft maintenance and repair, and in finding markets." [end recording]

In reply to a question about the significance of the Kuala Lumpur-Hanoi flight route, Mr. Baharuddin, deputy director general of Malaysian Airlines, said:

[Begin Baharuddin recording] The flight routes between the two countries are very important. With these flight routes, the two countries will have conditions to expand their trade transactions. More importantly, the two countries will become much closer. [end recording]

"At present, using a fleet of all Boeing 737-400 jets, Malaysian Airlines is independently exploiting the Kuala Lumpur-Hanoi route, conducting two flights weekly until the end of October 1992. After that the Vietnam civil aviation sector will be based on the needs of this service to set up an appropriate joint venture with the Malaysian side to exploit this flight route. Although the number of commuters plying this route is still few, the establishment of this flight route testifies to the Malaysian Government's goodwill to cooperate with Vietnam. It is especially very keen to make long-term investments in the northern part of Vietnam."

Increasing Cooperation With Singapore Reported

BK0604105792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0015 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Article by Kim Hang in "International Topic" program]

[Text] The important landmark in Vietnam-Singapore economic relations is the decision to lift the ban on investment in Vietnam for Singaporean businessmen on 16 November 1991 by the Singapore Government.

Singapore is a tiny country with a small population and average annual income per head of more than $7,500. It is one of the world's biggest centers in finance, shipping, and aviation. It also has other developing industries such as shipbuilding and repairing, oil processing, biology, and computers.

In the past years, its trading relations with Vietnam have developed quickly. In 1991, the trade volume between the two countries reached one billion dollars. Singapore has become a major market for three Indochinese countries with about 50 percent of Indochinese countries' goods sold in Singapore. It imports dye, fertilizer, insecticide, oil, and electronic goods. At the moment, among the capitalist countries, Singapore is the second biggest customer of Vietnam, after Japan. It has also intensified its investment in Vietnam in hotel and supermarket construction and cigarette production.

After Singapore lifted its trade embargo against Vietnam, and especially after Vo Van Kiet's visit to the country late last year, the investment cooperation between the two countries has had more favorable conditions to develop. The two chemical companies (Dubota) and (Voltvout) of Singapore have established their laboratories in Ho Chi Minh City to help Vietnam control quality and color of materials, textiles, and exported clothing and to train textile technicians. (Dubota) Company also has cooperation plans in wood, chemical, and peanut processing in Vietnam.

Regarding aviation, on 18 February this year the first Vietnam Airlines passenger plane from Ho Chi Minh City landed at Changi International Airport. After 17 years of disruption, there are now four flights weekly between Ho Chi Minh City and Singapore. In mid-March this year, Singapore Airlines advised that it would send a team to Ho Chi Minh City early this month to help Vietnam improve its aviation industry. This visit is the opening phase for Singapore's aviation industry to study mutual cooperation in airport equipment maintenance, airline staff training, airport management, and airline passenger service.

Speaking on the future of the two countries' relations, Singaporean Foreign Minister Wong Kan Seng said that Singapore will cooperate, help, and share its experience with Vietnam. Singapore is one of the major financial and commercial centers and may become an important door for trading and investment in Vietnam. It also supports Vietnam's joining the Treaty for Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia.

7 Apr National Assembly Session Outlined

BK0704122392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Today, 7 April—the 13th day of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th session—the National Assembly held a plenary session at the Ba Dinh Conference Hall to discuss and vote to pass draft amendments to the Constitution. National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao directed this session.

This morning the deputies continued their discussion and voted to pass Articles 37, 38, 40, 41, and 42 of Chapter 3 dealing with culture, education, science, and technology. Regarding Article 39 of this chapter, the deputies could not vote on it due to their differing views.

In Chapter 4 dealing with the safeguarding of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland, the deputies voted in favor of the title of this chapter—as suggested in the draft constitutional amendments—together with Articles 43B, 44, 45, and 46. As for Article 43A, the deputies could not vote on it because of a lack of unanimity.

This afternoon the deputies continued their discussion to pass the title of Chapter 5 dealing with fundamental rights and obligations of citizens, together with various articles—from Articles 47 to 60—of the same chapter.

Tomorrow, 8 April, the National Assembly will hold a plenary session at the conference hall.

Assembly Issues Communique No. 12

BK0704151892 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Communique No. 12 of the Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session]

[Text] On 7 April the National Assembly held a plentary session at the conference hall. National Assembly Chairman Le Quang Dao directed this session.

The National Assembly continued its discussion and voted to pass Articles 37 thru 42 of Chapter 3 dealing with culture, education, science, and technology; Articles 43 thru 46 of Chapter 4 dealing with the safeguarding of the socialist Vietnamese fatherland; and Articles 47 thru 61 of Chapter 5 dealing with the fundamental rights and obligations of citizens of the draft of the revised Constitution.

On 8 April the National Assembly will continue its plenary session at the conference hall.

National Assembly Holds Morning Session 8 Apr

BK0804055492 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] The Eighth National Assembly's 11th Session entered the 14th day this morning with a plenary sitting in the Ba Dinh Conference Hall to continually debate and pass some issues in the draft revised constitution under the direction of its chairman, Le Quang Dao.

After listening to National Assembly Vice Chairman Phung Van Tuu present the contents of and adjustments to the draft, and after receiving the views contributed by various deputies, all the deputies then voted and passed with a majority Articles 61 to 81, which are the last articles of Chapter 5 dealing with the basic rights and duties of citizens in the draft revised constitution.

This afternoon, the National Assembly will hold a plenary sitting in the conference hall to continually debate, contribute views, and vote to pass articles of subsequent chapters in the draft revised 1980 Constitution.

Vo Van Kiet Talks to Hoa Binh Province Leaders

BK0704113592 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 2300 GMT 6 Apr 92

[Text] On the afternoon of 5 April, after attending the ground-breaking ceremony for construction of the North-South 500 Kilovolt Transmission Line in Tan Lac District, Council of Ministers Chairman Vo Van Kiet held a working session with leading comrades of Hoa Binh Province. Comrade Nguyen Nhieu Coc, member of the party Central Committee and secretary of the province's party committee, and Comrade Dao Cong Dieu, chairman of the province people's committee, reported to the chairman on the province's socioeconomic situation and other issues such as construction of the province's material base, efforts to stabilize the life of ethnic minorities who had to move due to construction of the Da River Hydroelectricity Power Station, and issues relating to the environment and population resulting from changes in the water level of the Da River.

Speaking to the province's leading comrades, Chairman Vo Van Kiet said Hoa Binh is a mountainous province with an important position in the northwest region, great potential in land and labor, and the biggest hydroelectricity power station in the country. It has enough favorable conditions to develop its socioeconomy at a high rate for an early elimination of poverty, especially for the highland ethnic minority people. In order to achieve that, he continued, the province must accelerate its continuous development of agriculture and forestry production based on a good calculation of economic efficiency with state capital under credit and capital investment from other socioeconomic projects.

It is necessary to work out plans aimed at positively and effectively exploiting the existing material and technical bases of the Hoa Binh hydroelectric power project; the waterway transportation system along the Da River; and the key communications networks between Hanoi, the Red River Delta provinces, and the northwestern region so as to benefit local socioeconomic development programs. The government will give priority in electricity supply to Hoa Binh by planning that by 1995 all districts in the province will be provided with electricity. And the province must assure that wherever the electricity goes, economic development and improvement in the cultural life of the public must follow. If any district and village does not see any benefit from the national electricity service, it can build small hydroelectricity power stations for its own use. Water supply for production and life in Hoa Binh is a very difficult problem that the government is striving to improve in the national plan for mountainous regions under Resolution No. 22 of the party Political Bureau.

The chairman also urged the province to concentrate its attention on economic development at the same time by developing and restoring ethnic people's culture, improving education services, and lowering the province's birth rate. In the working session Chairman Vo Van Kiet also offered some guidelines for solving current problems in the province.

Scientific-Technological Council Established

BK0704113792 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 0500 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers chairman on 30 March signed an order appointing Professor Dang Huu, head of the State Commission for Science, as chairman of the National Scientific-Technological Policy Council [NSTPC], and Professor Nguyen Duy Qui, head of the Vietnam Social Science Institute, as deputy chairman. The Council of Ministers chairman also approved the regulation on the organization and function of the NSTPC.

The NSTPC serves as a consultative organ for the chairman of the Council of Ministers on issues related to scientific-technological development programs. The NSTPC will provide ideas and make proposals to the Council of Ministers Chairman for decisionmaking on orientations and tasks for scientific-technological development, priority projects for certain periods, and key policies on accelerating scientific-technological development. The NSTPC will help the Council of State formulate plans, laws, decrees, and regulations, and help the Council of Ministers draft resolutions and decisions pertaining to the organization and activities of the scientific-technological sector for each year and a five-year period, including its budget and so forth.

The NSTPC will also provide ideas on scientific-technological issues to the Council of Ministers chairman when it deems that necessary or at the request of the latter. The term of office of the NSTPC is five years.

Decree on Import-Export Taxes Issued 31 Mar

BK0704152092 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1100 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] On 31 March, the Council of Ministers issued a decree providing information on the implementation of import-export taxes. The decree comprises seven chapters and 25 articles covering taxable import-export products, tax computation criteria and methods, tax table, exemptions and reductions, reimbursements, measures against violations, settlement of complaints, organization of implementation, and so forth.

The decree shall take effect as of 1 April 1992 and supersede previous regulations.

Council of Ministers Issues Decree on Minerals

BK0704124392 Hanoi Voice of Vietnam Network in Vietnamese 1430 GMT 1 Apr 92

[Text] The Council of Ministers recently issued Decree No. 195-HDBT on enforcement of the law on exploitation of mineral resources promulgated by the Council of State on 28 July 1989. The decree, comprising 23 articles, stipulates the division of labor and function of agencies in the management of mineral resources, and the obligation of organizations and workers in making geological surveys, exploiting mineral mines, and preserving mineral resources.

The decree clearly defines the responsibility of the Ministry of Heavy Industry, other ministries, state commissions, and localities in managing, preserving, and exploiting mineral resources. It also stipulates procedures related to the collection of fees, issuance of licenses, registration for exploration and exploitation of mines, and punitive measures for violation of the regulation on mineral resources preservation.

The decree also defines procedures on formulating plans and strategy for developing the mineral industry and production as well as the authority of agencies concerned to investigate geological surveys and mineral exploitation, and to inspect work on the preservation of mineral resources and so forth. This decree is effective as of 25 March 1992.

Australia

Embassies Said To Tighten Security in Tehran

BK0804074092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] The Australian Embassy in Tehran is tightening security following this week's attack on the Iranian Embassy in Canberra which left a number of embassy staff injured. Several other embassies in Tehran have closed off public access in the wake of attacks on Iranian missions in their countries. Tony Hill reports that the Australian Embassy in Tehran is taking similar precautions.

[Begin Hill recording] An embassy spokesman indicated that the embassy had not received any direct threat but said it did not want a lot of people around the building at such a sensitive time. There has been no real response from the public in Tehran to the attacks overseas, but the Australian mission is expected to remain closed to the public at least until after the parliamentary elections in Iran this Friday. [end recording]

Seven Remanded for Attack on Iranian Diplomats

BK0804084492 Hong Kong AFP in English 0803 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Canberra, April 8 (AFP)—Seven Iranian refugees charged with attacking Iranian diplomatic staff here were remanded in custody Wednesday after a court was shown graphic news film of the attack on the embassy on Monday.

Magistrate Michael Ward remanded six men and a woman until June 1, saying the offences with which they had been charged were indirectly part of an international conspiracy against the Iranian Government.

In opposing bail, prosecutor Ian Bermingham said police believed another four offenders were still at large and that the defendants might contact them if released.

He told the Australian Capital Territory Magistrates Court that a large number of Iranian passports and 65,000 U.S. dollars in cash had been stolen from the embassy.

The prosecution had a strong case and would be calling on evidence from eyewitnesses and using scientific and film evidence, Bermingham said.

Police refused later to comment on the theft from the embassy, where security has been substantially strengthened following the attack.

After viewing the video, shot by a television crew, Ward said the accused faced serious charges and evidence against them was "exceedingly strong".

Up to 15 people, all believed to be Iranian dissidents, were seen rampaging through the embassy compound beating diplomatic staff, damaging cars, ransacking files and setting fires. One of the attackers wielded a tyre lever and another a screwdriver.

The defendants, all from Sydney, each face up to ten charges related to attacks on embassy officials and property damage.

Defence lawyers argued there was no evidence before the court that the defendants would not comply with bail conditions.

But Ward said he was not satisfied they would attend court if granted bail.

The defendants are: Abolghassen Ghassemian, 42, unemployed; his student brother Mahmoud Ghassemian, 44; Hooshang Ghazalmohammareh, 40; Mohammed Markieh, 44, unemployed; Ali Donyadideh, 34, civil engineer; Mohammed Khadji, 31, unemployed; and Maryam Chahhouzi, 39, unemployed.

Almost at the same time as the court hearing, 50 police were attending a peaceful demonstration by more than 200 Iranian supporters inside the grounds of the Iranian embassy.

The demonstrators were greeted by Ambassador Mohammad-Hassan Ghadiri Abianeh, who in a speech later excused Australian authorities for their unpreparedness ahead of Monday's attack.

"This sort of situation cannot cause any rift in relations between the two countries, especially with the Australian Government now remedying the issue," Ghadiri Abianeh said.

He also wanted to thank the Australian media, "who were helpful in showing the faces of these criminals".

"We hope they will be condemned and sentenced according to Australian regulations as much as possible," he added.

"We rest assured the Australian authorities will give them the punishment they deserve."

The ambassador said he had called Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, who had "appreciated the resistance of the staff of the embassy".

Some of the demonstrators lifted to their shoulders Ali Bourghei, a staff member whose bloodstained face appeared on television and newspaper front pages following the attack.

Keating on APEC Role in Regional Development

BK0704125092 Hong Kong AFP in English 1137 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Sydney, April 7 (AFP)—Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating proposed here Tuesday that the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum be upgraded to include regular regional summits.

Keating, in his first major foreign policy address, reaffirmed to the Asia-Australia Institute the growing economic importance of Asia to Australia.

"The quality of Australia's future relationship with Asia very much depends on what happens with regard to trade alignments in the Pacific," Keating said.

"The scope for Australia to achieve its broadest aspirations in the region will be that much reduced if the countries of East Asia see themselves as an economic bloc in rivalry with Europe and North America," he said.

Keating said he had discussed with U.S. President George Bush during his visit to Australia in January the importance of a continued U.S. strategic and economic presence in the Western Pacific, which could only benefit the region.

The Australian prime minister signalled a more active political and diplomatic role in the Asia-Pacific region for Australia, which in recent years has made key contributions to the Cambodian peace process and APEC.

Keating proposed periodic heads-of-government meetings for the Asia-Pacific region, "say every two or three years."

He said he had discussed general ideas for furthering the objectives of APEC with Bush and proposed further talks with other Asia-Pacific leaders, indicating the matter would be discussed during his visit to Indonesia later this month.

"We must be careful not to overplay our hand, but if our timing is good and we choose things which genuinely serve the wider interest, we can help shape the regional agenda," he said of Australia's future role in Asia.

Minister Holds Talks With PNG Premier on Aid

BK0504074692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 5 Apr 92

[Text] Australian aid to Papua New Guinea [PNG] has been the subject of discussions today between Australia's Trade and Overseas Development Minister John Kerin and PNG's Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu. The pair met for about an hour in Rabaul on PNG's New Britain Island.

Talks focused on ways to phase out budget support in favor of direct project aid. The change will allow Australia to have a direct say in which projects receive funding and will ensure Australia gets better value for its aid money.

The discussions were part of the review of the country's aid and development cooperation treaty and the new agreement is expected to be signed in September.

PNG is the major recipient of Australian aid. This year it will receive about Australian $270 million in direct budget support and about $50 million in project aid.

Melbourne To Assist PNG Police Operations

BK0804071292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Australia is to provide A$10 million to Papua New Guinea [PNG] under a joint venture to support police operations there. The project involves the building of 150 pre-fabricated houses for the PNG police by two Australian companies and a Port Moresby-based builder.

Australia's Minister For Overseas Development John Kerin says the houses will be erected at 28 locations throughout PNG. Mr. Kerin says the PNG Police Forces found it dificult to start remote outposts in the past because of accommodation problems. He says the new houses should make postings to remote areas more attractive and assist the government of PNG in its new community policing strategy.

New Zealand

Government Recognizes Bosnia-Herzegovina as State

BK0804053692 Hong Kong AFP in English 0512 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Wellington, April 8 (AFP)—New Zealand recognised the new republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina as an independent state, Foreign Minister Don McKinnon said Wednesday.

A large majority of the people in the state had voted to leave the Yugoslav Federation and so it was appropriate New Zealand recognised it, he said.

New Zealand has previously recognised Croatia and Slovenia.

Papua New Guinea

BRA Rebels, Soldiers Clash on Bougainville

BK0704073692 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Papua New Guinea [PNG] soldiers and secessionist rebels on the troubled island of Bougainville have clashed leaving two soldiers dead and four wounded. Port Moresby correspondent Brian Abbott reports the clash has followed a claim by the Bougainville Revolutionary Army [BRA] that PNG soldiers have massacred 15 civilians on a small island to the north of Bougainville.

[Begin Abbot recording] The two soldiers were killed and four wounded in an ambush near the central Bougainville village of (Laberi) following a weekend of skirmishes. One BRA rebel was killed and several were wounded. The dead brought to 36 the number of PNG troops and police killed in the three years of the secessionist rebellion. No figures are available on BRA casualties.

Radio Free Bougainville meanwhile claims PNG troops massacred 15 civilians including school children and women last week on (Saposa) island north of the main island of Bougainville.

The government administrator, (Sam Toulo), claims 15 BRA rebels were killed in the clash. [end recording]

15 Rebels Said Killed by Forces

BK0804060992 Hong Kong AFP in English 0436 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] Port Moresby, April 8 (AFP)—At least 15 rebels have been killed in heavy fighting with Papua New Guinea security forces on the rebel-dominated island of Bougainville, military authorities said Wednesday.

Two government troops were also killed and four wounded in the three separate skirmishes with the rebel Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) early Sunday, a defence force spokesman said.

Fighting broke out as Papua New Guinea forces based on Buka Island moved south toward the BRA stronghold of Arawa to rescue 30 captured villagers.

The government's Bougainville administrator Sam Tulo said security forces on the island had confirmed 15 rebels were killed, many more wounded and another captured. He said the number of killed could be higher.

The latest flare-up, described as the worst since 19 rebels were killed last November, followed a rebel raid on the village of Boira last week.

Independent sources on Bougainville said the BRA destroyed homes, rounded up villagers and marched them south to Arawa.

Government troops at Wakunai, about 50 kilometres (30 miles) north of Arawa, launched the rescue mission early Sunday, Tulo said.

On arrival at a school where the villagers were being held, the soldiers freed them and forced rebels to flee.

The government convoy was attacked twice as it headed south and 10 BRA members were killed in the heavy fighting.

He said about 30 BRA troops again ambushed the convoy as it headed back towards Wakunai after rescuing the villagers.

The two soldiers killed in the attack were guarding the vehicles carrying the villagers, Tulo said.

None of the villagers was injured in the fighting and all have been taken to a government care centre at Wakunai. Tulo said one BRA member from central Bougainville was captured during the rescue mission, and he was being held at Wakunai.

Meanwhile, Tulo said, about 250 villagers had deserted their homes and arrived at Wakunai Tuesday out of fear of the BRA.

He said 1,130 villagers from around central Bougainville were now being looked after at Wakunai after they left their homes due to the latest campaign by the secessionist forces.

Bougainville, home of the rich Panguna copper mine, has been riven with conflict since a secessionist uprising in 1989 and early 1990.

More than 100 people died in the uprising and more than 30 have been killed on the island in the past nine months.

The BRA claims thousands more have died since, mainly from disease attributed to the government blockade of goods and services to the island.

Although the government says it has resumed services to northern and southern Bougainville, medicines and essential services are still desperately needed in the main population centre and rebel base in central Bougainville.

Solomon Islands

Namaliu Apologizes to Mamaloni for PNG Raids

BK0704071092 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 7 Apr 92

[Text] Solomon Islands has confirmed that it has received an apology from Papua New guinea [PNG] for two raids carried out by PNG commandos last month on Solomon Islands territory.

The Solomon Islands prime minister, Solomon Mamaloni, said he had received a message of apology from his PNG counterpart, Rabbie Namaliu, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The Solomon Islands permanent secretary for foreign affairs, (Wilson Ifanoa), said the faxed message arrived over the weekend.

Anger in Solomon Islands over the two military raids led to the government announcing it would boycott a summit in PNG this week on the Melanesian spearhead group. PNG subsequently announced that the summit was being postponed. Solomon Islands had said it expects some form of compensation from PNG over the raid.

Summit Attendance Still Uncertain

BK0804065292 Melbourne Radio Australia in English 0500 GMT 8 Apr 92

[Text] The attendance of Solomon Islands at a deferred summit of Melanesian Spearhead Nations is still reported to be uncertain despite an apology from Papua New Guinea [PNG] over a territorial violation.

The summit was deferred after Honiara said it would boycott the meeting because it was yet to receive an apology from Port Moresby over two raids by PNG troops on Solomon Island territory last month. This was before Port Moresby submitted an apology last Saturday with Solomons Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni who said any decision to attend the deferred summit would have to be considered.

The day after Port Moresby made the apology, four members of the PNG Defense Force were reported to have landed on the Solomon Island of (Foroe) which is close to Bougainville.

The summit was originally due to have been held tomorrow in PNG's north coast town of Wewak.

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